

## Israeli-backed militiaman killed

TYRE (AP) — Guerrillas ambushed Israeli-backed militiamen inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon on Saturday, killing one and wounding another, security sources said. They said guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb which hit a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia truck near Rihan village, six kilometres inside the Israeli occupied border strip. The guerrillas and SLA militiamen then exchanged fire. Two militiamen were seriously wounded and one later died, the sources said. There was no word on any guerrilla casualties. The attack followed three days of sporadic shelling of villages outside the zone after guerrillas fired Soviet-made Katyusha rockets into the strip. Groups led by pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) have stepped up attacks on Israeli and SLA targets to show their opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks and to avenge the killing of Hizbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi by Israel in February. The 15-kilometre deep zone is held by 1,000 Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA, which is trained, equipped and financed by Israel.

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## Libyan envoy meets Vatican officials

VATICAN CITY (R) — Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohamed Beshari held what he said were "concrete and constructive" talks on the Lockerbie crisis with a senior Vatican official on Saturday. Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with foreign states, received Mr. Beshari for an hour-long meeting. "Tauran repeated the importance of peace as the supreme good, the necessity that international law be respected and that a solution (is reached) with peaceful means," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Mr. Navarro said the meeting had been at Mr. Beshari's request. The Vatican last month reported that the Arab League had suggested it, as a neutral state, take custody of two Libyans accused of bombing a Pan Am airliner which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. On his arrival in Rome on Friday, Mr. Beshari said: "I think it's in the interest of everybody, from the Americans to the English, but also Libyans, Europeans and Arabs, to find a peaceful solution (to the Lockerbie crisis)."

## Rutskoi holds talks with Mubarak

CAIRO (AP) — Russian vice-President Alexander Rutskoi Saturday held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral relations and Middle East peace efforts. After the 90-minute meeting, Mr. Rutskoi told reporters that Egypt and Russia had almost identical views on all issues. "Our positions here are very close," Mr. Rutskoi said. "My thoughts and President Mubarak's thoughts are very close." He said Egypt and Russia are considering signing an agreement on technological cooperation. Mr. Rutskoi, who arrived from Israel Friday, is expected to end his visit to Egypt on Sunday.

## EC monitor killed in Bosnia

ZAGREB (R) — A European Community (EC) official in Zagreb confirmed that a Belgian EC monitor had been killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Saturday. "We know his name but it cannot be revealed at the moment," said the official, who could not confirm that another monitor had been injured in the same incident. Croatian radio, adding to an earlier television report, said the monitor was killed by a shell in the village of Krusevo, near Mostar in southwestern Herzegovina, (see page 8).

## Six Kurdish guerrillas killed

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — Six Turkish Kurdish guerrillas were killed in a clash in this southeastern province on Saturday, the semi-official Anadolu news agency reported. The dispatch said the security forces killed the guerrillas in a shootout in the early morning hours near the town of Solhan. Eighteen other Kurdish separatist guerrillas died in clashes near the Solhan Friday. The Kurdish guerrillas operating in the region belong to the illegal Kurdistan Labour Party, which has been fighting for an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

## Hassan II chairs caucus on poll law

RABAT (R) — King Hassan has brought together the leaders of nine Moroccan political parties and cabinet ministers in an unprecedented conference to settle a dispute over new laws regulating local and general elections this year. The king, in chairing Friday night's opening session, told the three ministers and the heads of the five pro-government parties and four opposition parties they had 10 days to thrash out an agreement, a government official said on Saturday. They were meeting again on Saturday, the official said. King Hassan announced on April 21 that he intended to get the constitutionally mandated process rolling on May 4 for polls for rural and municipal councils and the subsequent election of a new parliament meant to be in place by mid-October.

# Calm returns to Los Angeles after 44 are killed in riots

Combined agency despatches

HEAVILY ARMED national guardsmen and police wrested back control of the streets of Los Angeles early Saturday after three days of rioting that killed 44 people.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was enforced by more than 6,000 national guardsmen and police who perched on rooftops and marched through neighbourhoods to show they were in command. "It's real quiet," said Marvin Kidd, a police officer assigned to Hollywood Boulevard to enforce the curfew. "It is almost eerie."

About 1,900 people were injured and more than 3,700 buildings destroyed by fire in the rioting—the worst in the United States for quarter of a century. Police said the majority of the dead were black and Hispanic men, ranging in age from 18 to 50. Seven were killed in gun battles with police.

The death in Los Angeles was surpassed only by the 47 people killed in Detroit in 1967.

The violence diminished hours after President George Bush put 3,000 soldiers and 1,500 marines on alert to help local authorities.

"Let me assure you, I will use whatever force is necessary to restore order," Mr. Bush said in a televised address to the nation. "What is going on in L.A. must and will stop."

The rioting erupted on Wednesday after four white police officers were acquitted in the beating black motorist Rodney King.

Mr. King made a public plea on Friday for an end to the violence. "We can get along here. Let's try to work it out," he said. Meanwhile, the Justice Department said it was opened a grand jury investigation to determine if the officers who beat Mr. King could be charged with civil rights violations.

Elsewhere around the country Friday, Atlanta police fired tear gas at a crowd of black protesters hurling bricks. In New York, blacks in Harlem pulled two white men out of a truck, stabbing one in the back and leaving the other with cuts and bruises, police said. Both were hospitalized in stable condition.

In New Rochelle, New York, rock-throwing black protesters overturned cars and broke windows on Friday night, and at least 10 people suffered minor injuries in the violence, police said. Related disturbances were reported in Las Vegas, San Diego,

Atlanta, San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, New York, Philadelphia, Denver and several smaller cities.

In Los Angeles, some residents began cleaning up but held little hope of rebuilding in much of the stricken area.

"All we're trying to do today is salvage what we can. Starting over is another question," Clyde Hatch said as he surveyed his looted pharmacy. "A black person won't be able to get any insurance around here."

Chad Mac, a 19-year-old marine, worked with a shovel on a pile of embers where an appliance store had stood.

"Just a year ago I was in the cleanup in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," he said. "Now you have to turn around and do the same thing in your own back yard. It's sad."

In Hollywood, apartment dwellers barricaded their streets and stood guard with pistols and shotguns.

In Koreatown, where about 150 businesses stood gutted, 1,000 people rallied, pleading for healing between Koreans and blacks. Korean merchants guarded their stores with assault weapons or hired security guards.

Black leaders throughout the United States pleaded for peace. Civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson said the unrest was not

just in the black community.

"It's in the Latino community, it's in the white community, it's in the national community," he said.

The devastation in Los Angeles left thousands of residents without food, power or fuel.

Operators of undamaged petrol stations were charging more than \$2 a gallon—nearly double the normal price. They said they needed the extra revenue to pay for security guards.

Lucia Alvelais, a spokeswoman for the city's department of water and power, said no attempt had been made to restore power to heavily damaged areas because workers would not go there without police escorts.

She said crews were planning to begin work at daylight on Saturday if peace prevailed.

A small sign that things were returning to normal was the distribution of welfare and social security cheques at post offices.

Officials decided to open the municipal courts, normally closed at weekends, later on Saturday to begin processing riot-related cases.

"People have the right to be arraigned within two days of their arrests and we decided to get the

(Continued on page 5)



Fire fighters at work in Los Angeles against the backdrop of smouldering wreckage of buildings destroyed in riots that started Wednesday.

# Jordan and Palestinians say no progress in fifth bilateral talks

By Suhair Obaidat

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestinians Saturday dismissed Israeli contentions that the fifth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, which ended in Washington on Thursday, had made progress on substantive issues.

"The negotiations are at a standstill despite some statements that the talks had achieved some progress," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Saturday told Radio Jordan.

Dr. Abu Jaber said a better assessment of the talks could be made after the return of the Jordanian delegation from Washington on Sunday.

While Dr. Abu Jaber stopped short of outrightly accusing Israel of misrepresenting the outcome of the talks, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Israel had stalled the negotiations and sought to make political capital out of the Middle East peace process ahead of the June 23 elections in the Jewish state.

"The Israelis used this round of talks as an election campaign," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters upon

arrival with the Palestinian delegation at Queen Alia International Airport. "They did not negotiate or discuss anything of substance."

Dr. Ashrawi said that while the Palestinian delegation presented serious and practical suggestions which can achieve tangible progress, the Israelis failed to reciprocate.

The Israelis "only presented ideas through the press and when we asked them for something in writing, they just gave us general ideas without details," she said.

"It was obvious that they (Israelis) wanted to turn this round into a round for election propaganda and to show the American public opinion that they are concerned about peace," Dr. Ashrawi said.

During the latest round of bilateral talks, the fifth since the Madrid peace conference held in October and the fourth in Washington, Israel came up with a proposal to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories.

The Palestinians rejected the proposal, saying they want municipal elections to be preceded by

general elections to choose a self-government which would act as a national legislature.

Israelis insist on delaying legislative elections to the last phase of the peace process.

Dr. Abu Jaber and Dr. Ashrawi said the Arab parties to the peace talks — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians — are scheduled to meet in Amman later this month to evaluate the fifth round of the bilaterals.

Dr. Abu Jaber said the Amman meeting would assess the "results of the Washington talks and setting a date for (the sixth round in) Rome."

The issue at stake is whether or not to agree to the sixth round of bilaterals in Rome prior to Israeli elections.

The Israelis, obviously trying to project a business-as-usual image, have been pressing for the parties to meet in Rome before Israel goes to the polls in a bid interpreted as aimed at helping the election chances of the right-wing Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

(Continued on page 5)

# Palestinians win U.S. praise

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — In a marked shift, the State Department has praised the way Palestinians negotiated with Israel and said they had made specific proposals for self-rule on the occupied West Bank and in Gaza Strip.

"They did put ideas on the table," said the same senior official who castigated the Palestinians a month ago for "posturing" and "playing to the media."

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdel Shafi, in a speech here, said the Palestinians had made four specific proposals.

They included repeal of a 1968 Israeli regulation that makes it easier for Israel to claim land in the territories for Jewish settlements and giving the Palestinians an equal role in urban zoning.

The two others were making land records available to the public and putting water resources under joint control.

"We asked them to give us a response," Dr. Abdel Shafi said, "and they refused."

The State Department official, who briefed reporters on condition his name not be published, declined to say what the Palestinians proposed. Told what Dr. Abdel Shafi had said, the official replied: "I wouldn't steer you away from that."

"There were discussions of specific sectors of authority to be transferred," he said.

Israel proposes limited self-rule for the 1.7 million Palestinians who live on the West Bank and in Gaza. During the round that ended here Thursday Israel proposed municipal elections and transferring administration of 14 hospitals to the Palestinians.

There was no agreement on when to meet again. Israeli spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday Israel would be willing to resume within a week.

But Abdul Salam Al Majali, the chief Jordanian negotiator, said Friday the Arabs were waiting for suggestions from July, the host, and the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the talks.

The State Department official said there might be a U.S. suggestion if Israel and the Arabs could not fix a date within two weeks.

In a speech, Dr. Majali criticised Israel. "They talk of peace but their deeds are otherwise," he said.

Dr. Abdel Shafi accused Israeli negotiators of "resistance and evasion." Murwatik Al Allaf, the chief Syrian negotiator, said the last round was marked by "a lack of meaningful progress."

Mr. Netanyahu, the Israeli spokes-

man, and other Israeli officials had given a far different account during the four days of talks. They described the meetings as businesslike and said serious issues were being negotiated on all fronts. He called the round the most productive so far.

U.S. officials said Israel and Syria had for the first time exchanged papers and documents as a positive step forward.

Israeli officials, anxious to promote headline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's image as a peacemaker ahead of June 23 elections, have been at pains to portray the latest round of talks as a success.

The State Department offered a similar appraisal. At the conclusion of the last round a month ago the same official denounced the Palestinians for "posturing" and "playing to the media" instead of negotiating with a willing Israel.

This time, the official said, both sides actively discussed aspects of self-rule.

"The tone and content of this fifth round were positive. The Palestinians came here with some serious ideas," he said.

"Specific ideas were put on the table. All sides are beginning to get

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# Deputies gear up for debates on political parties and press

By Mariam M. Shabbih  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An extraordinary session of the Lower House of Parliament is expected to convene in the middle of June to discuss two draft laws viewed essential to the evolution of the democratic process.

The two draft laws—one on political parties and the other on press and publications law—are expected to be debated, amended and passed during the extraordinary session that is expected to last no longer than two months.

Both laws are considered cornerstones of the democratisation process in the Kingdom. The debates expected to

proceed their endorsement will serve as indicators to the willingness of the Lower House to usher in a new era of political and personal freedoms, political observers say. "It will be the biggest test to date on how democratic the democratically elected representatives really are," said one deputy.

The five political congregations on blocs in Parliament discussing strategies and positions on the draft law on political parties, said Fawzi Tameh, spokesman for the Lower House's Constitutional Bloc.

"We are meeting to discuss the law and our bloc's position on the law," Mr. Tameh said Saturday. "We may or may not

press for some amendments."

The law has been under discussion by the House's Legal Committee, which is expected to present its recommendations to the full House and government when Parliament reconvenes in June.

Political parties have effectively been banned in Jordan since 1957. The legalisation of political parties is considered by political observers and politicians alike to be a major test of the endurance of the democratisation process in the country.

A former political prisoner and a current member of Parliament, Issa Madanat, a communist, says the law, if passed, will effectively make Jordan

the most politically tolerant country in the Arab World.

"A democracy is measured by its level of tolerance for minorities and those with opposing opinions. The legalisation of political parties is the cornerstone of any democracy," Mr. Madanat said.

He said that if the law is passed his party will hold elections later this year in order to prepare its members and candidates for the next parliamentary election, due to be held in 1993.

Amman Deputy Fakhri Kassar referred what he said was the recent sentencing of six members of the Tahrir Party to three months imprisonment on

the charge that they belonged to an illegal political party and said:

"We need to pass this law badly. It is the single most important issue on our agenda if we are to proceed with the democratisation of Jordan."

While the ban on political parties is used selectively, political activists and supporters of the legalisation of political parties argue that "in a democracy we can not afford to have such bans on anyone—it is a contradiction in terms."

According to Ministry of Interior officials there are already at least 60 parties to be officially registered once the law is passed.

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Victorious Afghan Mujahideen in Kabul

## Kabul fighting ebbs, but casualties come

KABUL (AP) — Power failures, water shortages and the breakdown of transportation may have cost scores of lives in the week-long battle for Kabul, according to doctors.

Though fighting in the capital has abated, casualties are still coming in. They are victims of mindless shooting in a city flooded by weapons wielded by young guerrillas accustomed to the empty mountains.

Mohammad Ali brought his 14-year-old son Khaibar to children's hospital on Friday with a bullet wound in the hip. The militias who captured his neighbourhood earlier this week keep people away by firing in the air, the father said.

It has rained bullets for a week in this city of 1.5 million people. Jubilant Mujahideen, winners in Afghanistan's 14-year civil war, have fired thousands of rounds in the air to celebrate the capture of the capital.

The Mujahideen guerrillas seized the capital from the

collapsed regime of President Najibullah last Saturday without bloodshed. But then rival groups turned their guns on each other in a fierce four-day fight for control of the city.

When the bullets began flying through the window of her home, Karima fled into the street. "We were frightened. Everybody ran away," she said. A rocket burst a few yards from her, pitching a piece of shrapnel into her back.

Karima, a 13-year-old who like many Afghans uses only one name, does not know who fired the rocket, or why. She is mad, "but I am too small to do anything. If they were here now, I would stare at them very angrily," she said from her hospital bed.

Somia, 11, was hit by a bullet fired when forces of the main guerrilla alliance attacked the stronghold of fundamentalist rebels in the Interior Ministry. Her simple mud house, which has no tables or chairs to hide behind,

is on a hill about 500 metres from the ministry, said her mother.

"This has been a hard week. We haven't had enough medicine, oxygen, or electricity. Because of that, about 20 per cent of our patients died," said hospital attendant Sharulla Chmida.

The death toll from the fighting may never be known. Casualties were taken from the battlefield directly for burial. No central authority registers deaths, and hospitals count only those who died after they were admitted as patients.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it admitted 281 wounded in the last week. At least 15 died.

The children's hospital said it lost 10 of the 30 children who were brought in with bullet or shrapnel wounds. The Avedina Hospital said it received 105 casualties, but only two died.

The city's largest hospital and the one that probably tre-

ated more than the others combined, the Charsad Bestar military hospital, refused to give any information.

"Many people were killed in the fighting. I don't know how many, but I would guess 1,000 in this area," said Abdul Wadud Bagurie, the senior doctor of the centrally located Avedina chest hospital.

Some died because there was no transportation to bring them for treatment, he said. Doctors and nurses were trapped in their homes by the shooting and curfews, he said.

"We didn't expect that after 14 years of fighting the communist government that the Mujahideen would fight and kill the poor people of Kabul," said Dr. Bagurie.

"The people of Afghanistan wanted an Islamic government, and now they have it. But we are tired of fighting," he said. "We don't want it any more, not even for one hour more."

## Nigeria seeks spinoff in ties with Israel

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria hopes a visit by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy starting on Sunday will help its drive to win a bigger voice on the international stage.

Officials said Mr. Levy's visit, three weeks after South African President F.W. de Klerk made a landmark trip to Nigeria, heralded restoration of full diplomatic ties between Africa's most populous country and the Jewish state.

Nigeria cut links during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, at a time when rivalry between its mainly Muslim north and largely Christian south forced it to concentrate on domestic political issues.

"Nigeria cannot remain isolated from the rest of the world in international affairs. We are trying to regain lost ground," Foreign Minister Ike Nwachukwu, announcing Mr. Levy's visit, said Friday.

"Nigeria must lead the rest of the black race on the right path and we believe it is time to put the past behind us," he was quoted as saying by the news agency of Nigeria.

Nigeria's push, including proposed Sudanese peace talks in the capital Abuja on May 24, is taking place shortly before its leadership of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) expires in June.

Nigerian foreign policy in the 1970s and 1980s was directed mainly at the West African sub-region and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Mr. Nwachukwu said Nigeria wanted to talk directly to Israel and South Africa without going through third parties.

"Nigeria wants to be a player in the Middle East and elsewhere to enable it to break out from solely African affairs," a Western diplomat said.

"It is also very keen to show that it is a serious contender for a seat on any enlarged U.N. Security Council," he said.

But diplomats say Nigeria, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, must convince sceptics that its days of political instability are over before it can play a major and credible world role.

Military president Ibrahim Babangida plans to step down next January to make way for an elected civilian administration. Nigeria has been ruled by the army for all but 10 of its 32 years of independence from Britain.

Mr. Nwachukwu, who visited Israel last August, said Mr. Levy's talks in Lagos and Abuja would focus on issues including trade, technical assistance and agriculture.

## Iranian rebels decry envoy's detention

STOCKHOLM (AP) — An Iranian rebel movement protested to Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt Friday against detention of the group's Stockholm representative.

"How else could this unprecedented and shameful measure be interpreted, other than an act of repressing the criminal mullahs ruling Iran," said Massoud Rajavi, president of the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran.

His statement, telefaxed to news organisations, objected to the Swedish security police detention of Sarvaz Chitsaz on Thursday.

Swedish Television reported Friday that the security police wanted to expel Mrs. Chitsaz from an alleged connection with an attack on the Iranian embassy last April.

Dozens of supporters of the Iranian resistance movement had attacked Iran's Stockholm embassy and set fire to one of the buildings, injuring several people.

Mr. Bildt said at the time that if any of the embassy attackers were not Swedish citizens they should be expelled. However, under Swedish law, they could only be sent to a third country that would accept them.

The Iranian government had demanded the extradition of those responsible. But under Swedish law the embassy attackers could not be sent to Iran, where they might be executed.

The security police said they detained Mrs. Chitsaz under a law that allows arrest of a foreigner considered to be a security risk or suspected of planning criminal acts.

Mrs. Chitsaz said her group had not encouraged the attackers.

"We tried to talk to people, but we can't stop them they go out of control," she said in a television interview while in detention.

"Arresting a Mujahideen spokesman like this would be of benefit for the (Iranian) regime. I don't think this is a good record for the Swedish government," she said.

A security police source earlier was quoted as saying authorities wanted to check Mrs. Chitsaz's identity.

But Rajavi said police knew she had also been using a second name, Maryam Tehrani.

"Her political asylum in France is under this name and she had already informed the Swedish police of this," Mr. Rajavi said in the statement.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S. will watch Kuwait arrest case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department said it was concerned about the case of two Kuwaiti journalists brought into court and accused of publishing defence secrets, a spokesman said Friday in a statement which also landed the end of press censorship in the emirate. Spokesman Richard Boucher noted that the Kuwaiti government abolished censorship on Jan. 12, and the press "since then, has covered events with remarkable vigor."

Editor Mohammad Al Saqr and reporter Khadir Al Enezy of the main opposition newspaper Al Qabas were released on \$3,500 bail each this week, pending investigation into the newspaper's publication of names and titles of military officials. "We've looked into it," Mr. Boucher said in response to a question at a state department briefing. "We understand that this may be followed by a court inquiry to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to substantiate the charges," he said. "I would just say that we'll follow the situation closely, and at this point we'll see whether the court inquiry determines that there is sufficient grounds for these charges," Mr. Boucher said. "We're obviously concerned," he said. "We continue to support freedom of expression, freedom of the press. We've made that very clear to other governments, including the Kuwaiti government, many times. So we'll keep watching this one."

### 8 to go on trial over Patras bomb

ATHENS (R) — Eight Palestinians go on trial on Monday charged with murder arising from a bomb blast in the port of Patras last year which killed seven people. Twelve kilos of high explosives wrecked the offices of a private mail company, killing four employees, two clients and a Palestinian police said was carrying the bomb. The eight Palestinians, all students in Greek universities, were arrested after a month-long manhunt and will be tried by an Athens court on charges of murder by terrorist act. If convicted, they face life imprisonment under an anti-terrorist law passed in 1990. Greece deported scores of Arabs after the explosion April last year. They include the former head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in Athens and six other diplomats. Police said the Palestinians were members of a group called the Islamic Holy War movement and said their intended target was the nearby British consulate. The man carrying the timebomb was Ahmad Hashaykeh, an electrical engineering student at Patras Polytechnic, who was trying to disconnect it after failing to place it at the consulate, police said. A Greek woman was also arrested and was charged with lesser offences. The trial is expected to last a month.

### UNHCR to repatriate 10,000 Ethiopians

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Some 10,000 Ethiopian refugees who fled to neighbouring countries to escape war and famine will be repatriated under U.N. auspices at a cost of nearly \$2 million, a senior official said on Friday. A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official said 326 Ethiopians flown from Nairobi on Thursday were part of a group of 3,500 Ethiopian refugees who would be repatriated in the next two months. Other Ethiopian refugees are expected to return from Yemen, Djibouti, and Hargessa in Somaliland. Cecil Kpeau, UNHCR regional representative in Africa, urged the first batch of refugees to return to Addis Ababa to become self-supportive and not to solely depend on humanitarian handouts. The UNHCR gave each refugee the equivalent of \$30 and a coupon for a one-year food aid grant before they were despatched to their countries. Witnesses said the refugees did not have any possessions and appeared ragged.

### 22 Kurdish rebels killed

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Six soldiers and 22 Kurdish separatist guerrillas were killed in clashes in southeastern Turkey, officials said Friday. The announcement from the regional governor's office said the soldiers were ambushed by rebels near Kayadere village near Diyarbakir as they were returning from a patrol on Thursday. Eighteen guerrillas were killed in a shootout near the town of Solhan in Bingol province Friday, it said. Anatolia news agency reported the site of the clash as near the town of Elmalik earlier in the day. The dispatch said six guerrillas were killed in the five-hour-long shootout. No more details were given in the official announcement, which reported 12 more deaths. Three guerrillas were killed in another clash in Bingol province on Thursday, and troops killed another guerrilla and captured four others at the town of Nusaybin in Mardin province, according to governor's office. The Kurdish guerrillas operating in the region belong to the illegal Kurdistan Labour Party, which has been fighting for an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

### Kuwaiti defence minister in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait's defence minister arrived in Cairo on Saturday to discuss Gulf security. "This visit is to discuss the dangers threatening the Arab World and the Gulf in particular," Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah told reporters at Cairo airport. He is also expected to discuss the stalled Damascus declaration — an eight-nation blueprint for Gulf security announced at the end of the Gulf crisis but never implemented. The agreement was signed by Egypt, Syria and the six nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. It called for the stationing of Syrian and Egyptian troops in the Gulf in return for economic aid from the oil-rich Gulf states.

### Girl killed in clashes with Cairo police

CAIRO (R) — A 13-year-old girl was shot dead on Friday in clashes in Cairo between police and Muslim militants protesting at the death of a colleague killed by a policeman two days earlier, security sources said on Saturday. The militants, throwing stones and petrol bombs, battled police after Friday prayers in the suburb of Imbaba. Fifteen people including three policemen were injured but it was not clear who fired the shots that killed the girl. On Wednesday in Imbaba, Muhammad Al Shehri was shot dead by a police officer whose pistol he tried to snatch, the security sources said.

## Iranian hardliners caution parliament against tilt

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian radicals said Saturday that victory of technocrats in a parliamentary ballot next week would transform the once powerful legislature into a toothless body and split up the Iranian society.

A statement by self-appointed defender of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's anti-Western doctrine also said that the technocrats would revamp relations with the United States at the expense of Iranian independence and sovereignty.

The warning by the followers of Imam Khomeini's line was published by the Farsi-language newspaper Salam and carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

It coincided with the start of new campaigning by 268 candidates in a runoff vote on May 8 to fill 134 parliament seats.

Technocrats who back Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani won most of the 136 seats decided in first-round balloting on April 10.

Mr. Rafsanjani's supporters, most of them young and Western-educated, also are frontrunners in next week's poll.

The Iranian president is seeking to open up Iran to the west to attract investment and expertise for an ambitious development plan.

The incumbent, radical-dominated Majlis had tried to block his policies on the grounds that they violate the teachings of Ayatollah Khomeini.

They say Ayatollah Khomeini,

who died in June 1989, had ruled out any ties with the West.

"Preservation of the independence of the country requires deputies with strong will and revolutionary zeal who are fully aware of the developments in international policies," the statement printed in Salam said, according to IRNA.

"In conditions where the hegemonist United States, under the pretext of the new world order and in collaboration with other international bodies, intends to violate the independence and national sovereignty of other countries."

"The slightest failure to mobilise all national potential would have catastrophic consequences for the country and the revolution," it said.

It rejected as "mere imagination" proposals by "a number of domestic technocrats (that) closer ties with the West and the U.S. were the key to pulling the country out of the present economic bottlenecks."

"Returns of the first round of the Majlis elections indicate that the victory in principle of one faction would help the emergence of an irresponsible faction which would result in the formation of a non-political and non-revolutionary parliament."

It said "vigilance" was required to protect the Iranian revolution and to prevent "the society being split into a well-off minority and a culturally and materially poor majority."

## State Department watchful on Jews' travel from Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — It will take about two weeks to see how the Syrian decision to permit Jews to travel abroad is implemented, a senior State Department official said Friday.

"We have instructed our embassy to look at the follow-up to the decision," the official told reporters in response to reports that no Syrian Jews have been permitted to leave.

The decision to give equal travel rights to Syrian Jews also the right to buy and sell property was announced Monday as Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed at the State Department.

It was welcomed by Secretary of State James Baker, who had interceded for Jews during trips to Damascus. Mr. Baker pointed out, however, that Syria had not accorded Jews a right to emigrate.

Seymour D. Reich is chairman of the national task force on Syrian Jewry of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

He cautioned on Friday against "premature hosannas" in the belief that Syrian Jews could leave.

"This is no time to hand the cruel and despotic regime of Hafez Al Assad the propaganda victory he seeks," Mr. Reich said in a statement. He urged that Jewish organisations and individuals "exercise restraint, reject premature hosannas and wait until Jews are actually given permission to travel abroad with their families — and without restrictions."

There are about 4,000 Jews in Syria.

The State Department official, refusing to be identified further said the U.S. embassy in Damascus had been instructed "to look at the follow-up to the decision."

"There are certain procedures that any Syrian citizen has to go through," he said. "We are told these are the administrative procedures that are in effect. I think we are going to need a couple of weeks to see how this process is working."

Still, the official said Syria had informed the United States the decision was being put into effect.

"It's not just a decision that hasn't been transformed into a regulation," he said.

## Menem due in S. Arabia

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem leaves Buenos Aires on Sunday on a tour of the Middle East to strengthen economic ties, promote Argentine business and woo potential investors, government sources said.

Mr. Menem, of Syrian descent, will start the 10-day trip in Saudi Arabia where, after meetings and a banquet with King Fahd and senior ministers, he will discuss investment opportunities in Argentina with Saudi economic experts.

On Thursday Mr. Menem, who last year visited Israel, Morocco and Egypt, and his 23-member entourage will briefly visit Kuwait for meetings with government officials and private businessmen.

Argentina was the only Latin American country to join the

multi-national blockade of Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. Argentine companies have earned more than \$100 million from contracts to help put out oil well fires and clear mine fields in Kuwait.

They also hope to become involved in construction projects there.

On Friday Mr. Menem travels to the Turkish capital Ankara where he will sign a series of accords with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to strengthen bilateral ties, described by Foreign Minister Guido di Tella as "long-standing but, until recently, weak."

A meeting is scheduled with local businessmen in Istanbul. The following Monday Mr. Menem travels to Cairo, the final stop on his tour, where he will spend three days.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Michael Vaillant  
17:45 ..... Des Chiffres et Des Lettres  
18:15 ..... L'ecole des Pans  
19:00 ..... News French  
19:15 ..... Carnet de Notes  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... News in Wings  
21:10 ..... Doc: "The Long Ride"  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Track and Glory

### PRAYER TIMES

04:22 ..... Fajr  
05:47 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:33 ..... Duha  
16:12 ..... Asr  
19:19 ..... Maghreb  
20:44 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth  
Tel. 810740  
Assamallah of God Church, Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terzaventa Church Tel. 622666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541.  
Assamallah Catholic Church Tel.  
626543.  
Assamallah Orthodox Church Tel.  
773131.  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.  
Assamallah International Church Tel.  
685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-  
Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of  
Meteorology.

Khamis weather conditions will  
prevail. Therefore, it will be warm, dry  
and partly cloudy, and winds will be  
southeasterly moderate to fresh. In  
Aqaba, it will be dusty with southerly  
moderate to fresh and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 14 / 25  
Aqaba ..... 19 / 35

### USEFUL TELEPHONE

### NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mahmoud Omar ..... 888883  
Dr. Nidal Al Dabab ..... 672625  
Dr. Fakhri Bilal ..... 625778  
Dr. Mohamed Al Nahawi ..... 693925  
Pines pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 775336  
Al Azzam pharmacy ..... 637053  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy ..... 637660

AMMAN:  
Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 14 / 25  
Aqaba ..... 19 / 35

### AL SHARAF pharmacy

Deserts ..... 15 / 32  
Jordan Valley ..... 18 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-  
man 25, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings:  
Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 22 per  
cent.

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 60351  
Hotel Complaints ..... 60300  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6442816  
Akilbi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mafes, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Patriotic Shamsani ..... 6641714  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 848945  
Al-Hussein Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Amman ..... 641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajir ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Amman ..... 7551126  
Army, Marika ..... 89161715  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224050

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA

### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal  
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-  
ment at the Queen Alia International  
Airport Tel. (09)33200-5, where it  
should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

### (Terminal 1)

16:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
16:30 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
16:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
17:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Paris, Geneva (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
20:20 ..... London, Brussels (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
11:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
16:00 ..... Moscow (SU)  
17:45 ..... Larnaca (CY)

### MARKET PRICES

Uppeflower price in \$/kg per kg.  
Apple (red) ..... 700 / 600  
Banana ..... 500 / 450  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 550 / 500  
Beans ..... 700 / 600  
Cabbage ..... 150 / 100  
Carrot ..... 160 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 300 / 200  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 150 / 100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 300 / 200  
Eggplant ..... 250 / 150  
Garlic ..... 1000 / 800  
Lemon ..... 260 / 200  
Marrow (large) ..... 260 / 200  
Marrow (small) ..... 300 / 250  
Onion (dry) ..... 240 / 180  
Onion (green) ..... 150 / 100  
Oranges ..... 370 / 250  
Pepper (hot) ..... 700 / 600  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 250 / 200  
Pumpkin ..... 600 / 500  
Radish ..... 150 / 100  
Sage ..... 600 / 500  
Spinach ..... 150 / 100  
Tomato ..... 750 / 650



## Symposium on reducing energy consumption to commence Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is organising a symposium Monday on reducing the consumption of energy in the industrial sector with the participation of representatives from the public and private sectors.

The symposium, which assumes a great importance in view of the growing demand on energy due to the expansion in the industrial sector in Jordan, will last three days during which 20 research papers will be reviewed, according to Dr. Muhammad Hamad who heads a committee that prepared for the coming meeting.

The research papers deal with means of cutting down on the use of electricity and oil products, the use of renewable and alternative sources of energy and general guidance on rationalising consumption of fuel, Dr. Hamad noted.

He said that numerous working papers by a group of specialists in energy and the use of energy in industry, the work of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and prospects for reducing the cost of electric power for industry will be discussed.

Should the industrial sector in Jordan commit itself to sound and proper methods and techniques to cut down on consumption, the country would save up to 3.2 million tonnes of oil annually, worth at least JD 25 million, Dr. Hamad noted.

In view of the importance of this symposium, Dr. Hamad pointed out that the organisers issued invitations to various companies in Jordan and to German universities, the European Community, the United Nations agencies and the government of Japan

to send delegates who can help Jordan in this respect.

Dr. Hamad referred to recent World Bank report which pointed out that Jordanian industry cannot compete with other industries in foreign markets in view of the high price of its products and said that reduction of cost is of paramount importance at this stage, so that the industrial sector can be helped to reduce the prices.

Furthermore, any reduction in the cost of energy resources is bound to have a beneficial effect on all citizens who use it for various reasons, Dr. Hamad added.

The symposium is organised by the ministry in cooperation with the University of Jordan, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the Industrial Development Bank.



## Jordan marks King's assumption of powers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday celebrated the 39th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

Since assuming his duties in 1953, King Hussein has been devoting his time and efforts to serving his country, and the Arab Nation at large, and his relentless endeavours have been rewarded with development and progress in Jordan's various fields.

The Palestine issue has been among the foremost concern of the King, and his efforts continue to help the Palestinian people regain their rights in their own homeland.

Under the leadership of King Hussein, Jordan has won worldwide respect and now enjoys stability and security which contribute to the Kingdom's progress and development.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, issued a statement referring especially to the fact that the Kingdom enjoys an atmosphere of democracy, a true endeavour of King Hussein who is keen on securing for his countrymen a climate of freedom and offering them responsibility in participating in the process of constructing the country in a climate of political stability and socio-economic progress.

The agency said that the principles of the Great Arab Revolt have been serving as a guide-line for the Jordanian leadership and have been enabling the country to attain self-reliance and freedom.

The agency said that Jordan, under King Hussein, consented to participating in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, fully aware of the international responsibilities, aiming to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and to ensure their rights in their homeland.

The King has been reiterating that just and durable peace can only come from the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace as well as the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland, the agency added.

It said that Jordan, under King Hussein, is pursuing the achievement of his noble goal with all its might and at the same time enhancing the democratic process through Parliament, the National Charter and political pluralism.

## Japanese deputy arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Chairman of the Overseas Foreign Assistance Committee of the Japanese ruling Liberal Party, Nikaro Hiyarazumi arrived in Amman from Damascus Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan.

The Japanese visitor will meet with senior Jordanian officials and will discuss with them issues of common interest, bilateral relations and economic cooperation between Jordan and Japan.

In a statement to Jordan Television following his arrival, Mr. Hiyarazumi voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's role in the peace process.

"I think you have always been very careful and moderate in your pronouncements, in your negotiations, and I think it's a very good thing," he said.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib welcomed the Iranian visitors at the airport.

## Iranian delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iranian religious delegation led by Sheikh Ayatollah Tashkiri arrived in Amman Saturday on a several day visit to Jordan.

Sheikh Tashkiri is expected to hold talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral cooperation in Islamic religious affairs.

The Iranian delegation's leader said in a statement that Iran was keen on defending the Islamic holy places in Palestine and on supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib welcomed the Iranian visitors at the airport.

## Pakistani minister visits Jordan

SOUTHERN SHUNEH (Petra) — Pakistani Labour Minister Mohammad Ali Haq, who arrived in Amman Friday, visited Saturday the Jordan Valley where he was familiarised with agricultural projects there. The Pakistani minister visited the Dead Sea area and later met with the Pakistani community in Deir Alla area. Mr. Haq is on a five-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior officials and discuss with them scopes of cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

## Hanbo chairman visits Jordan

AMMAN — Tai Soo Chung, the chairman of Hanbo Group of the Republic of Korea, arrived here Saturday on a five-day visit to Jordan to discuss with Jordanian officials and businessmen means of promoting economic and technical cooperation between Jordan and Hanbo Group.

During his visit to Jordan in 1986, Mr. Chung donated an amount of one million U.S. dollars for the establishment of a vocational centre in North Shuneh.

Hanbo had executed successfully many major development projects in Jordan since 1975, including Wadi Arab Dam and irrigation projects, raising of King Talal Dam, Irbid Water Supply Project, Deir Alla — Amman Water Supply projects and Royal Jordanian Air Force Operation centres.

Hanbo was honoured by His Majesty King Hussein by the



award of the Order of King Hussein Bin Ali on May 3, 1983 in commendation of its outstanding contribution to Jordan National Development.

## Labour Day celebrates economic, social progress

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday met with leaders of the labour movement and workers' unions in Jordan on the occasion of Labour Day, voicing deep satisfaction with the progress achieved in Jordan in the economic and social fields with the help of the Jordanian workers.

The prime minister said he was delighted to share with the workers their celebration of Labour Day and his meeting with the labour unions was a clear expression of his all-out support for the fruitful cooperation between the employers, the workers and the government in the course of building the country and fulfilling its aspirations.

The prime minister voiced appreciation of the Jordanian workers who, he said, were instrumental in achieving development in various economic and industrial fields.

"We take pride in the Jordanian labour movement which has achieved great strides over the past four decades in the various economic sectors," said Sharif Zeid in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the labour unions had played a major role in establishing strong ties of cooperation

between Jordan's unions and those in the other Arab countries.

Also on the occasion of Labour Day, Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti issued a message to the Jordanian workers, expressing good wishes to them and voicing appreciation of their endeavours towards the building of Jordan.

Labour Day has always been a source of pride for the Jordanian society in view of the major achievements accomplished by the workers in the Kingdom, the minister said.

The minister said that the government has been constantly supporting the workers' movement and backing endeavours to meet the workers' needs and requirements including social security, vocational training and the organisation of the local labour market in addition to occupational safety matters and legislations to ensure protection of the workers' rights and gains, said Mr. Kabarti.

He said that extra efforts are being exerted at present to help job-seekers find work and reduce the adverse impact of unemployment on society.

In response to Royal directives, the Ministry of Labour has embarked on a reorganisation of

its various departments with a view to offering better service to the workers and to deal with the unemployment issue, Mr. Kabarti added.

On the eve of the Labour Day anniversary, the minister was quoted as saying that the Labour Ministry was going ahead with constitutional and legal measures to bring into force the new labour law. The new law provides for better organisation of the local labour market for better relationships between workers and employers and for better working conditions as well as measures to deal with the problem of unemployment, the minister pointed out. He said that the draft law is now being examined before it can be submitted to Parliament for endorsement.

Referring to the government's measures to find employment for Jordanian people, the minister said that efforts are being made to control the local labour market with priority in employment being given to Jordanian job-seekers. He said that through concerted efforts by the employment offices, at least 58 per cent of the total number of registered workers seeking jobs have found work.

## QAF starts voluntary services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in cooperation with the University of Jordan will today (Sunday) embark on a week-long voluntary service benefitting the central Jordan Valley region.

Nearly 200 participants from the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Agriculture and Education at the University of Jordan plus six specialists will be involved in the voluntary work benefitting the villages of Rawda, Rameh, Nahda, Jawasreh, Sakneh, Jofa and Kafrein, according to a University of Jordan statement.

The statement said that the functions include field trips to homes, schools and various centres to conduct medical examinations which are to be practiced at the existing clinics in the villages of the area.

As well as the examination of the local residents, there will be laboratory tests, dispensing of medicine and providing guidance on health-related matters, said the statement.

It said that the week of activities includes lectures on means of protecting children from such diseases like polio, in addition to advice and guidance on dental protection; proper handling of medicines, children's milk, questions related to brucellosis and general cleanliness.

The event, which took place under the patronage of Minister of State Sultan Al Udwan who delegated for His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid, may be a first in a series of such annual events.

## Students go on environmental quest

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an attempt to increase environmental awareness, university students and professors, Friday, set off to Al Ain area of the Dead Sea with a quest to clean the area of litter.

Eight buses of students from the University of Jordan, the Amman University College for Applied Engineering and the Amman National University, along with several cars of interested participants, amassed 700 large garbage bags of litter left behind by visitors to that section of the Dead Sea shore alone.

According to a participant, the litter collected consisted of

"anything and everything." "There were cigarette stubs to sardine cans to plastic containers and even trousers," he said, adding that although there are no garbage containers in the area, it should not give people the excuse to litter. "People should learn to bring along their own garbage containers on their trips and then dispose of their litter in proper garbage disposal areas when they return home," he said, adding that the garbage seemed to be partly disintegrated.

The idea of this environmental awareness even came from observation. "A German professor of architecture at the University of Jordan, Elmer Dietmann, noticed the litter in

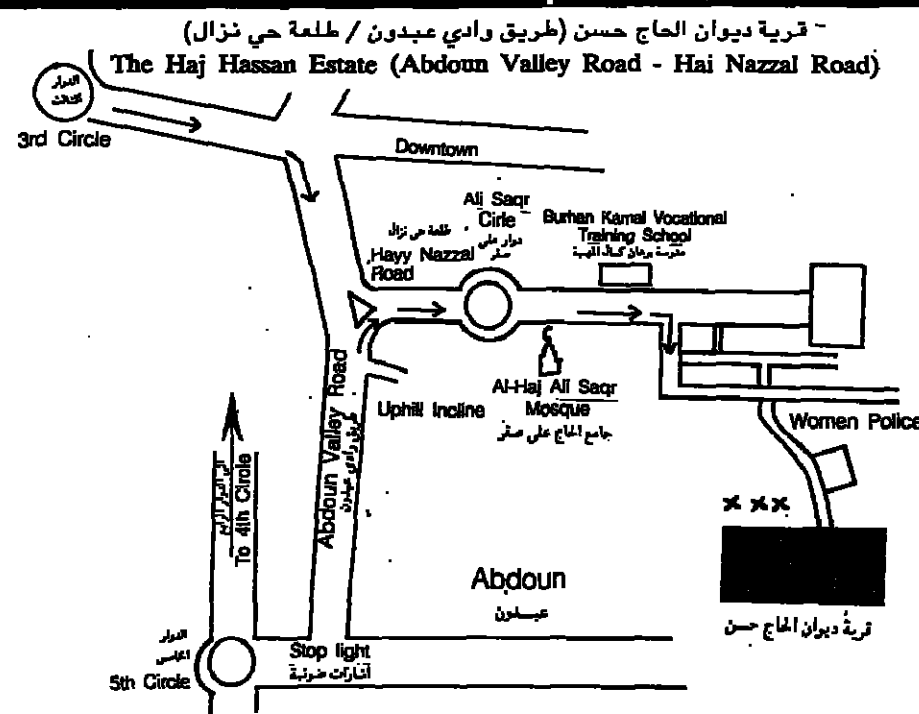
the tourist area near the Dead Sea," Hassan Saffarini, the chairman of the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Jordan, said. "So I suggested an event to clean up the area, and soon in cooperation with the Arab Youth Forum and the Amman University College for Applied Engineering and the Amman National University, the idea started to take shape and within days, the event was organised," Dr. Saffarini said.

The event, which took place under the patronage of Minister of State Sultan Al Udwan who delegated for His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid, may be a first in a series of such annual events.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein as a courtesy of the Haj Hassan Family



Are holding their annual  
**1992 SPRING EXHIBITION**  
from  
Wednesday April 29 to Wednesday May 6  
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.



For direction and information call: 658696/658697  
Over 1,600 Jordanian and Palestinian women are inviting you to view their own expression of spring through their colourful collection of fine handicrafts weavings quilts  
Save the Children Projects.

## 'Peace Child' described as 'a major hit'

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Wonderful! Fantastic! A brilliant production! "Peace Child '92" which opened in Amman on Thursday at the Hussein Sports City was a major hit, capturing the hearts and minds of an audience of around two thousand.

The play, featuring children from around the world, was a unique, enriching experience as it portrayed the way children look at the present state of the world and what they imagine it to be like in the future.

Children from Jordan, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Australia, the former Soviet Union, Sweden, China, Sudan, Morocco, Turkey, Indonesia, and Japan took part in this year's production.

The play, which has been travelling around the world for the last ten years, is set in the year 2025. It starts out with two storytellers who, with a mixture of Arabic and English,

try to convince their children to take part in the celebrations for Peace Day.

One of the children, twelve-year old Jamir refuses to join the celebrations, preferring to play with his computerised state of the art toys. The father, in an effort to convince his son, reminds him of what the world was like before Peace Day and explains the importance of this universal day.

As the play evolves, children from around the world end up at the United Nations and ask to form their own "United Nations" to protect the rights of all children around the world. Led by two strong-willed children, Nadia and Tim, the children face many challenges, most notably trying to convince "Madame President" to accept their idealistic proposals. The children finally succeed in their endeavour and manage to introduce Peace Day to the world. The circle is thus completed when it turns out that the storytellers are actually Nadia and Tim.

Throughout the play, children voice their utmost fears, hopes and dreams. Although the most notable theme in the play is a strong call for peace and stability around the world, other themes are also introduced. Among them is protecting the environment, population, pollution, arms control, poverty, education and the need to share water and other natural resources. At certain points, Nadia also makes obvious references for the need to protect and alleviate the suffering of Palestinian and Iraqi children, who incidentally were absent from the play.

For about two and a half hours, the audience is entertained by the beautiful young voices of children as they sing their hearts out, the elegant set and costume designs, the graceful dancing and the heart-grabbing dialogue.

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, as well as a number of the Royal family, attended the opening of the play which ran for three consecutive days.

## Red Clay Ramblers ramble in

By Nur Sadi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The American Red Clay Ramblers, a multi-instrumental string band, are currently in Amman giving performances for the benefit of the cerebral palsy patients.

The five-man band performed Thursday evening at the University of Jordan. Saturday evening at the American ambassador's residence and Sunday evening they will perform in Irbid.

"Buffy" was the word piano player, Bland Simpson, used to use to describe the group's type of music. "We play lots of different things — a wide variety of tunes, both folk and pop styles, essentially from the late 19th to mid 20th century."

The group, which composes and writes its own music and lyrics, mixes older tunes with the more contemporary spirit to give vivid, upbeat acoustic music, said Tommy Thompson, founder of the band and banjo player.

"There is no telling what sort of arrangement we will come up with," added Mr.

Simpson. "We would start with the banjo and Jack (Herrick who plays the guitar, trumpet, pennywhistle, bass, keyboards, baritone and flute) will come in with an unusual combination."

Sometimes, Mr. Simpson said, in the arrangement, the tune is simple and traditional. After the first time through and as the audience begins to feel with it, the melody gradually changes to more modern rhythms. "We try to keep the audience interested by making changes," he added.

The band which was formed in the mid 1970's has so far performed in parts of the United States, Canada and Europe. Supported by the U.S. government, the group went on a long tour to Africa 10 years ago. Three of the current five of the Red Clay Ramblers also performed in Jordan six years back at the Jerash Festival.

Now the band is back in Jordan on a five-nation tour. Syria was the first stop. After Jordan, the Red Clay Ramblers will perform in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco respectively.

The musical group, who is in Jordan under the joint sponsorship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and both the Jordan and Yarmouk universities accepted to perform here because of an interest in bridging a gap between the two differing cultures. "From our point of view, this is where we want and need to make friends," said Mr. Simpson. "Music sometimes is an easier bridge to cross between cultures than diplomacy."

Although there is no way to know how many people follow the lyrics, Mr. Thompson said, he expects curiosity from the audience. "From our experience in Syria, we could see the audience looking sideways, but the liveliness of the music seems to amuse the people."

The lyrics are a mixture of personal stories and love songs — happy sad and funny ones, he added.

Other members of the band include: Christopher John Frank who plays the accordion, guitar, trombone and keyboards, Clayton Hughes Buckner, fiddle, harmonica and mandolin player.

## Fashion show reveals spring, summer lines

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With a blast of bright colours, Samia Talhoumi, Tuesday, introduced her spring and summer lines in a veritable fashion show at the Marriott Hotel.

The items displayed were the result of combined efforts of Samia Talhoumi, Mona Sawalha and Andre Schmitt, a French fashion designer with 35 years of experience.

"We buy all the year's fabrics

in advance and we conceive designs that would fit well in our society," Ms. Talhoumi said, adding that everything about any fashion look modelled, including accessories, are made at Ms. Talhoumi's workshop. "The Modern Fashion Design."

"We used to import clothes from abroad," Ms. Talhoumi said. "This seemed too sterile, simply buying and selling was somewhat frustrating, so I decided to start my own line of clothes. The work became more fulfilling," she said.

The three-month preparation for the fashion show proved effective in that the art of using the different types of fabrics in different combinations, without breaking the harmony, needs design talent, and it was obvious in the modelled clothes. There were light textures of chiffon and organza, tulle and lace, as well as materials with wicky check used to make styles reminiscent of the fifties and sixties that are expected to "dominate the styles of this summer," Ms. Talhoumi said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of seven artists from the occupied territories — Tayseer Barakat, Sulaiman Mansour, Nabil Anani, Vera Tamar, Jawad Al Maali, Ya'qoub Al Kari and Khalil Rahab — at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hassan Al Bastani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of sculpture by Iraqi artists Jalel Al Zahedi and Amal Al Eshba at Baladina Art Gallery, Gardens Street.

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Mawake Hadidat at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Spring exhibition of Bani Hamida and the Jordan River designs at the Haj Hassan Estate, Abdoun Valley Road.

### FILM

- ★ Academy Award-winning film "Gone with the Wind" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

### MEETING

- ★ Meeting of the American Women of Amman at the Marriott Hotel (4-6 p.m.)



## Jordan Times

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## Freedom of the press: Much has to be done

SINCE THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has designated May 3 as the "International Day of Freedom of Press," it is incumbent on all journalists to seize the occasion in an effort to advance the overall cause of free press and the protection of the profession and its members.

From the Middle East's vantage point, today offers an opportunity to take stock of the situation of journalists, and maybe all of those who work in the mass media generally, against the background presented by the recent report of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) entitled "Attacks on the Press 1991" and released in March of this year.

In the document, CPJ, a New York-based group made a sweeping condemnation of practically all the Middle Eastern countries for their total control of the mass media organs and for preventing them from carrying out their mission in freedom and with objectivity. The report also contained a documented analysis of how journalists and their associates in our part of the world have been systematically mistreated by either illegal detention, confiscation or banning of their publications. This is not to mention cases of physical attacks on journalists and their arbitrary expulsions in a bid to clamp down on free press and reporting. Censorship, CPJ concluded, has been reintroduced to the area in spite of all protestations about the advent of democracy.

Well, this is a very serious charge against the various governments in the Arab World where most if not all of them have repeatedly pledged to their people, and in their policy statements, to usher in a new era of responsible and free press in a climate of pluralistic democracy.

Against this backdrop and because of our unique situation the first measure that we in Jordan need to take is to examine the veracity of such a blanket accusation and see where and how it touches us. So the big question is whether the Kingdom is enjoying a vibrant and free press within a context that all Jordanians accept as the reasonable perimeter for its exercise.

On the surface of things, the country's journey to freedom of the press has yet to be completed because the relevant laws have yet to be worked out, voted on and adopted. Secondly, the emergency regime in the Kingdom is still in abeyance awaiting definitive resolution in the wake of His Majesty's non-acceptance of Parliament's draft law on this critical and controversial subject. The political parties' law is also still on hold awaiting the resolution of its finishing features. Thirdly, and this is perhaps the most important part of the issue, is the way Jordanian journalism and journalists have developed in recent times and under the new elements of freedom which they have been enjoying ever since parliamentary democracy was reintroduced in 1989. The important, rather crucial question in this context is how Jordanian journalists and their profession have conducted themselves after they were given a relative free rein to pursue their noble mission. Has the quality of Jordanian dailies improved that much in terms of how they cover and treat complex domestic and regional issues? Have they stood up to the challenges that pluralistic democracy has brought forward to the Jordanian political, social and cultural scenes? And what about Jordanian television and radio? Should they continue to be under the control of government or should they be governed by a council that draws its membership from both the private and the public sector as so many developed countries have been doing for decades? Should the country be satisfied with the quality of the programmes aired by our television and radio stations till this point in time?

There are so many questions to be asked and which cannot be addressed in haste. Answers would require a thorough reevaluation and perusal by eminent Jordanians from all walks of life. One thing is clear, though, and that is Jordanian press and information sectors, be they public or private, still have a long way to go before they can exercise their work and accomplish their mission in a more fruitful and positive manner. The stigma of controlled press is still with us even though the government had officially declared a hands off policy on it some time ago. Much more, therefore, needs to be done by both the various branches of government and our profession in order to accord the country a truly free and responsible press, which it so highly needs and deserves.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Democratisation helped the economy

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

There is no doubt about the existence of a strong relationship between the democratisation process and the economic situation in Jordan and, for that matter, in any Third World country. Yet, there is no agreement on the nature of this relationship or on whether it is positive or negative.

Some analysts for instance, believe that the economic crisis of 1988/1989, and in particular the social disturbances that took place in April 1989, brought democracy to Jordan. If that is true, it means that bad economy is good politically and could be a spur for democracy. Others argue that a failure of Jordan's present drive for economic reform will be detrimental to democracy because the bad economy and the shortages may lead to renewed social disturbances, which in turn will rock the vulnerable democratic boat, because the state will be tempted to become violent and use undemocratic means to put down and silence grievances. There is thus a confusion on whether liberal democracy and healthy economy are compatible or contradictory.

The crisis of foreign indebtedness and the bankruptcy of the state were instrumental in the collapse of military and corrupt regimes in South America during the eighties, while the Egyptian economic hardship in the seventies and the bread demonstrations under Sadat, (which he labeled as the revolution of the thieves!) led to more violence of the state, worse dictatorship, and harsh application of martial law. The Egyptian government exchanged bullets with the opposition, instead of opting for a political

dialogue.

In the case of Jordan, democracy was more than a solution for an economy hit by the crisis. The King issued early signals of an impending free elections and a National Charter months before the April disturbances. Of course, the economic and social development may have hastened the democratic process, but it was in the making anyway because of political maturity and the need for a new chapter in governance, and to pave the way for the unavoidable economic reform.

Democracy is a prerequisite for successful economic adjustment and reform. Such a crucial endeavour calls for difficult decisions and substantial sacrifices on behalf of the population which could not be implemented without the people's consent and actual participation in the decision making process without which the popular conviction that the sacrifices are necessary as a price for better future could not possibly materialise. Political democratisation and economic reform therefore go hand in hand and reinforce one another.

In principle, economic reform is not supposed to fail in a democratic environment, because such an environment secures the ability to adjust and correct deviations and mistakes committed by the government to fit changing circumstances. However, if the current economic reform fails due to external factors, such as an Israeli aggression, economic blockade or the interruption of the flow of financial aid, the democracy will be a protector of last

resort against aggression. The world will not tolerate punishment or aggression against a democratic country.

The success of economic reform, the restoration of Jordan's economic independence and the achievement of financial self-sufficiency will definitely give the government more space to move, but it is not expected that a healthy economy will lead to a reversal of democracy. The improvement in the economic situation will not, under any set of circumstances, reach the level of abundance of resources comparable to that experienced in oil economies, where democracy is bartered for welfare and governmental favours. The Jordanian government will not find at its disposal a huge wealth that no one worked hard to make. It will only have to manage the proceeds of taxes paid by the people, who could not be excluded from governance.

At any rate, democracy in Jordan remains safe and advancing simply because the Jordanian regime did not adopt democracy as a temporary sacrifice, to be abandoned when the elements of social pressure disappear, but because it serves the best interests of the regime itself.

Internally, the regime gained loyalty across the board which never occurred since the fifties. It secured stability at the most dangerous of situations, and facilitated the process of economic reform. Externally democracy earned Jordan a regional and international stature, and enabled the country to play a role far greater than its size warrants.

# Europe set to win the 21st century

By Lester C. Thurow

The 19th century belonged to Great Britain; the British were the dominant economic power. The 20th century belongs to the United States; we generate the world's highest per capita overall standard of living. But who, in economic terms, will "own" the 21st century — Japan, Europe, America?

A case can be made for each of the three contenders. The Japanese have momentum on their side. Americans have flexibility and an unmatched ability to get organised if directly challenged. But strategic position is on the side of the Europeans.

Already Americans are feeling the psychological impact of Japan's challenge to our dominance, and already that challenge has made other countries (Germany, for example) less deferential to American political translates into cultural leadership as well.

Here's how the major contenders for 21st century ownership line up.

Japan. Japan's momentum comes from the fact that it is simply growing faster and investing more in future growth than any other country. In just 20 years, Japan has gone from having a per capita GNP only half that of the United States to one that is now 22 per cent greater, if the two GNPs are evaluated using international currency values.

Its per capita internal purchasing power is still below America's, but on both external and internal measures of performance, it is growing much faster than either the United States or Europe. It is today the world's largest net creditor nation with the world's largest trade surplus — currently running at more than \$120 billion per year.

In head-to-head competition with European or American companies, its companies have been impossible to beat. Japan's market share goes up, the rest of the world's goes down.

Cohesion and homogeneity give Japan an ability to focus its economic might that few others can rival.

No one is investing more to secure its future economic success. Plant and equipment investment per employee is three times as high as America's and twice that of Europe; civilian Research and Development (R&D) spending as a fraction of GNP is 50 per cent above that of the United States, slightly above that of Germany, but far above that of Europe as a whole. Japanese high school students come near the top in any international assessment of achievement and its ability to educate the bottom half of the high school class is simply unmatched anywhere in the world.

But Japan's strength is also its weakness. Japanese history, traditions, culture, and language make it very difficult to integrate foreign managers and professionals as equals. To the extent that the global economic game of the 21st century requires firms to integrate managers and professionals from different cultures and nationalities into a cohesive team, Japan has a problem.

The same problem makes it difficult for Japan to create a trading block on the Pacific Rim to rival that of Europe or the Americas. A few special trading arrangements may emerge but Japan is not likely to be able to create a Pacific Rim Common Market to rival the European Community.

Japanese success also has been based upon an export-led economy. Domestic industries were often very inefficient by world standards. But Japan will find it increasingly difficult to use export as the leading edge for its domestic economy. Japan is now so large economically that other countries will simply not tolerate the penetration of their markets that would result if Japan continued to outpace world economic growth through an export-led

strategy. — America. Having been rich longer than anyone else, the United States starts the 21st century with the largest horde of real economic assets to deploy in the 21st century's economic competition. Technologically it is seldom far behind and often it is still far ahead. Its per capita income and average productivity are second to none. Its college-educated work force is the best in the world. Its domestic market is far larger than that of Japan and far more homogeneous than that of Europe.

But America has squandered much of its starting advantage by allowing its educational system to atrophy; by running a high-consumption, low-investment society; and by incurring huge international debts. American investment is simply not world class. Plant and equipment investment per labour force member is far below that of either Germany or Japan; non-defence research and development spending is 40 to 50 per cent less than that of Germany and Japan; physical infrastructure investments are running at half the level of the late 1960s.

While Europe embarks on an ambitious high-speed rail network to link its major cities, unspent funds pile up in highway and airport trust funds in the United States. Japan has a plan for rewriting itself with fiber optics (building the electronic highway of the 21st century); America does not.

The second under-strength player on the American team is the nation's work force. Here the picture is mixed. Luckily for Americans most of the countries with good elementary and secondary education systems have not built good mass university systems to go with them. College is where the U.S. work force catches up with the rest of the world. But that part of the U.S. work force that does not go to college is not up to world standards.

Paradoxically, if America wants to have a world-class consumption standard of living in the 21st century, it will have to shift its resources away from consumption towards investment — to become future oriented.

The United States faces another impediment to market expansion in that its natural geographic trading partner, Latin America, is poor and poorly educated. Latin American per capita GNP has been declining, and regional debt problems make rapid growth unlikely.

At the same time the United States has real cultural advantages in expanding its productive reach. America's culture makes it the easiest for outsiders to become insiders. Americans may

not be great exporters, but they are the world's best when it comes to running off-shore production facilities.

Europe. Like a novice chess player studying a manual of "end game" strategies from an assured winning position, Europe can beat out its competitors no matter their response — if it picks the right moves. The required moves, however, involve integrating the European Economic Community (337 million people) into one economy and gradually absorbing most of the rest of Europe. If it does so, the continent will have put together a productive base with economies of scale and scope that no one else can match.

Europe's major advantage is that almost everyone starts out well educated. Europe is the only region in which one country, Germany, is a world leader in production and trade, and another, the republics of the former Soviet Union, have in the aggregate been a leader in high science and the world's largest producer of natural resources. Add the design flair of Italy and France to a world-class London capital market efficiently directing funds to Europe's most productive areas, and something unmatchable could be created.

Those who guard the entrances to the world's largest economy have always written the rules of world trade. The 21st century will

be no different. The Europeans will write the rules for world trade.

Still, Europe must overcome two problems if it is to capitalise on its advantaged position. The economies of Western Europe have to really integrate, and that integration has to be quickly extended to middle and eastern Europe. And the ex-communist economies of the region have to become successful market economies. Neither is an easy task. Both will require European citizens to make sacrifices today to create an economic juggernaut tomorrow. Western Europe must provide the large amounts of economic aid needed to get capitalism started in middle and eastern Europe; both West and east must put aside ancient border and ethnic rivalries.

In this head-to-head competition for economic dominance, Europe's big advantage is that all the people in Europe know that they must and will change. Western Europe is already making the changes necessary to create the world's largest integrated market and middle and eastern Europe is already moving from communism to capitalism.

For these reasons, future historians are likely to record that the 21st century belongs to the House of Europe — The Washington Post.

# Iran presses Gulf states to ensure cooperation

By Yousef Azmeah  
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran, upset that Gulf Arabs have been reluctant to include it in regional security arrangements, is apparently using old disputes with its smaller Gulf neighbours to ensure cooperation. Gulf political sources say.

The Gulf Arabs have consistently snubbed Iran since the end of the Gulf war, rejecting its call for a pan-Gulf pact in which it would play a leading role.

Now it is hitting back, seemingly through pressure on individual Gulf states, the sources said. Iran's relations with its Gulf neighbours, who supported Iraq in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, improved markedly when Tehran came out strongly against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

But suspicion of big neighbour Iran remained the hallmark of the foreign policy of most Gulf states, especially of Saudi Arabia, the region's other major power.

Qatar has taken most Gulf governments and diplomats based in the region by surprise by signing six cooperation agreements with Iran, including a project to pipe Iranian fresh water across the Gulf to the barren peninsula.

The agreements established the kind of close relations across a broad range of economic and other issues that other Gulf states remain wary of, the sources say. Iran had used a border row to "persuade" Qatar to enter those agreements and was now apparently trying to arrange similar pacts with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), they said.

Gulf officials are reluctant to discuss Iran's strategy. They would not confirm reports from diplomats in Iran that UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi was told on a visit to Tehran last week that such agreements would ease a row over the island of Abu Musa, controlled jointly with the UAE sheikhdom of Sharjah.

But one source said, "their (the Iranians') tactics seem transparent... they are desperate for a role in the region, and are not above using strong-arm tactics to make their point."

After signing the agreements with Qatar, Iran went quiet about its claim to a share in Qatar's massively rich north field natural gas development in Gulf waters, they said.

Mr. Nuaimi went to Tehran last week for a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani after Iranian troops on the island of Abu Musa expelled some 60 foreigners who worked for the UAE in the Sharjah half of Abu Musa. Diplomats in Tehran said Mr. Nuaimi went home virtually empty-handed.

"He was told that the Abu Musa problem was a small one that could be easily resolved in the context of wider UAE-Iran cooperation," one diplomat said. "There was a strong hint that they would like to see a cooperation along the Qatari model."

The Abu Musa dispute centres on an agreement reached in 1971, shortly before Britain abandoned responsibility for the seven sheikhdoms that later formed the UAE.

The agreement recognised that neither side accepted the other's claim to Abu Musa, but allowed Iran to station troops on the island and allowed them to fly their flag on an agreed part. Sharjah retained full jurisdiction over the remainder and the right to continue flying its flag over its police station.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has said the agreement banned other nationals from residing in Abu Musa but the text does not mention foreign nationals and diplomats said the clause on full jurisdiction by Sharjah over its part of the island meant it had the right to allow foreigners in.

The Iranians, who crossed over to the Sharjah side at the end of March to deport the foreigners, were in clear breach of the

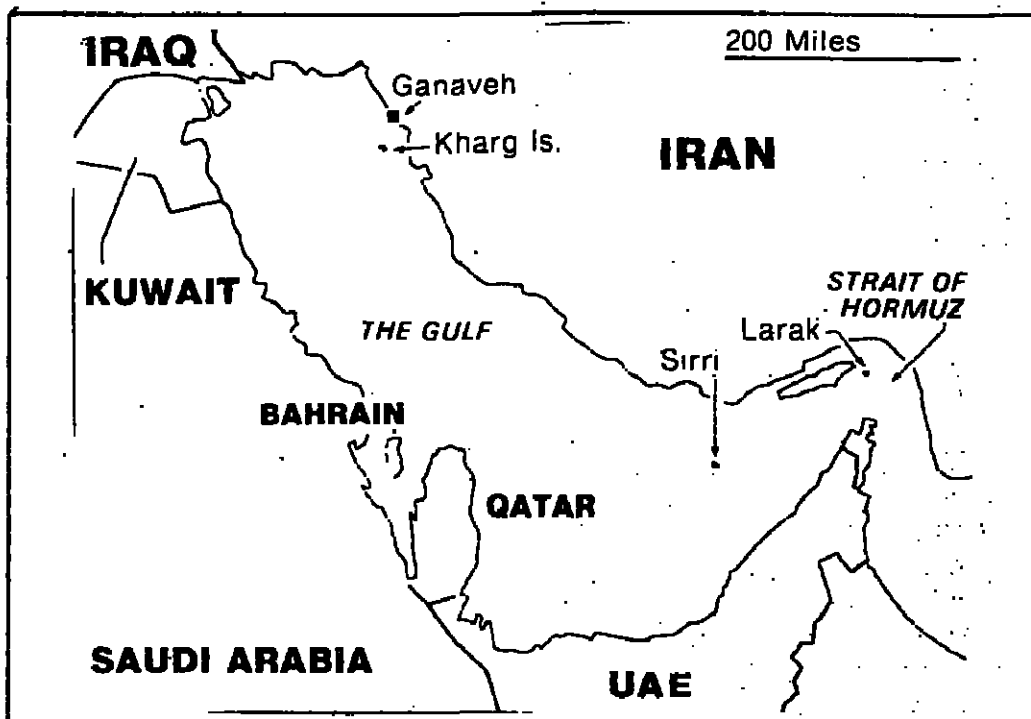
accord, the diplomats added. The foreigners were Asians working for the UAE government in running the island's power station, clinic and school, they said.

The sources dismissed reports that some of Abu Musa's UAE residents, thought to number less than 2,000, had been deported. The situation on the island had eased since, with a ferry service

to Sharjah back in operation and a few foreign workers' shipping back on to the island.

Diplomats said the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, who were called on for a briefing on the incident by the UAE government in Abu Dhabi shortly after it happened, had yet to be briefed on Mr. Nuaimi's trip to Tehran.

None of the major powers have said anything about the incident so far, hoping the UAE can resolve it diplomatically.





## Eurotra, a multilingual computer

By Emmanuel Thévenon

Eurotra, a computer-aided translating system, will, in a few years, make it possible to juggle with the nine official languages of the European Community.

The corridors of the European Commission and the European Parliament often sound like the Tower of Babel. The civil servants and members of parliament most often express themselves in their national languages. In the century of the reign of efficiency, such a situation might appear totally absurd. But which language should be chosen for the official means of communication? English? French? German? Esperanto?

The governments presiding the European Community made up their minds on this issue a long time ago. The answer is none. They have refused the hegemony of any linguistic group and imposed the translation of all the official texts into nine languages (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish). This makes 72 pairs of languages.

Hosts of multilingual translators are thus in charge of carrying out this task which becomes bigger and bigger as the areas of competence of the Community extend. Moreover, this activity is becoming increasingly specialized. The vocabulary of aeronautics, for instance, contains no fewer than 200,000 terms. No human translator is able to retain them all, even in his mother tongue. So help has to be obtained from computers which can alone quickly process such a stock of words.

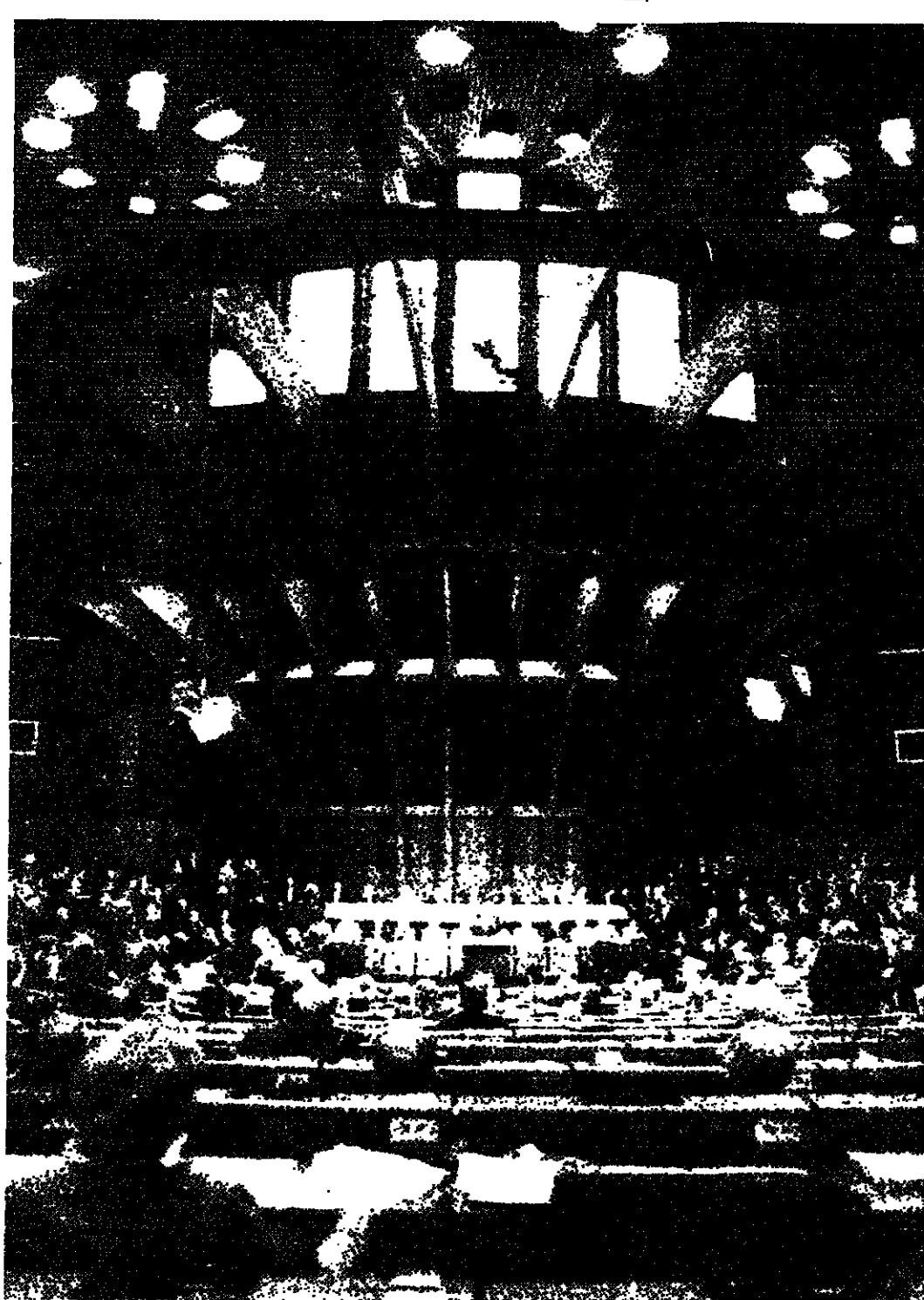
In the hope of speeding up the translation process and reducing the enormous costs it incurs, the

Community has, since 1982, financed an ambitious computer-aided translation programme, "Eurotra." This system, which is to become operational in 1995, has already cost more than 300 million francs. For nine years, it has mobilised some 150 researchers in linguistics and data-processing.

Their work has resulted in the development of a prototype containing 20,000 lexical entries, including 15,000 technical terms from the field of telecommunications. In the coming years, this research should enable industrialists to put particularly efficient translating software on the market.

Computer programmes already exist but they are usually not very efficient and work in pairs of languages. For instance, they contain an English-to-Russian module which also requires its Russian-to-English counterpart. However, if one wishes to add another language to this pair, new linguistic combinations need to be created: English to French, French to English, Russian to French, French to Russian, etc.

The quality of these products, which is already mediocre, then becomes simply catastrophic and demands a lot of know-how and patience on the part of the user. Rather than producing 72 different dictionaries and grammars (which is absolutely enormous), "Eurotra" uses a kind of artificial and simplified pivot language which links all the languages together. For the user, this process resembles all the other computer programmes. You enter a text into your computer, in English for instance, and then ask for its equivalent in French. The answer is received in a few seconds, the time needed by the



With "Eurotra", a computer translating system, the Europeans will shorten the time taken to communicate in the nine official languages of the European Community (Photo Simon/Gamma)

machine to carry out discreet but fantastic work.

First of all, the system analyses your prose, breaks it down into sentences and then sorts out the words according to their nature (noun, adjective, pronoun, etc.) and function (subject, verb, object, etc.). It is even able to distinguish different meanings of the same word depending on the context in order to avoid any ambiguities. For instance, "to start" followed by a noun or a verbal expression would mean "to commence" and without a direct object would mean "to make a sudden movement in surprise or shock," the latter necessarily being transitive.

It then represents the grammatical structure of each sentence in a simplified abstract way, using identical rules whatever the language being considered. Thus every sentence appears in the active voice. The sentence: the proposal is adopted by the council becomes the schematic form obtained. The system makes a first translation (which does not appear on the screen) without any difficulty.

Finally, in the last stage, "Eurotra" moves onto the definitive sentence in the end language, using the rules of syntax of that language alone. Sentences which appear in the passive in English can thus end up being written in the active in French, following the most elementary rules of current translation.

In addition to its efficiency, this original system also has a tremendous asset. It can easily be enlarged. The addition of a further language only requires the development of two new modules (instead of 18 or more in traditional computer programmes). One of them translates the sentences into simplified language and the other operates the opposite process. The linguistic problems brought about by the likely admittance of new countries in the Community, should be greatly reduced by this system — L'actualité En France.

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## Calm returns to Los Angeles after riots

(Continued from page 1)

system going," said Marcia Skolnick, court spokeswoman.

Hundreds of people in many areas began cleaning up the tons of smashed glass and burned debris littering pavements and streets.

Mayor Tom Bradley's office estimated property damage at more than \$550 million, although unconfirmed figures ran as high as \$1 billion.

Police patrols stopped cars and pedestrians, and dozens of people were arrested overnight. A total of 5,200 arrests have been reported as a result of the riots.

Throughout the city businesses were closed, their windows shattered or boarded up. Most weekend events, including art exhibitions, concerts and sports, were cancelled. The smell of smoke was in the air.

Military convoys, with trucks full of armed and helmeted national guardsmen, provided the firewalls, but the marines and soldiers ordered in by Mr. Bush remained on standby outside the city.

About 1,000 federal police officers began to arrive in the city, many carrying weapons and riot gear.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday the rioting in Los Angeles showed America's claim to be a democracy that respects human rights is a lie.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling a group of workers in Tehran that the U.S. judicial system supports the oppressors rather than the oppressed.

"The U.S. has a greater need for reforms in its own affairs than other countries," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who called on human rights activists to abandon other countries and investigate the United States.

"A huge portion of American society has rebelled because of a lack of social justice ... and the accumulation of the open injustice in the hearts of the people, which sparked the explosion," IRNA quoted him as saying.

He said that America's claim to be a democratic society that respects human rights was "nothing but lies and deceit."

Radical Iranian newspapers gloated over the violence and accused the U.S. government of race discrimination.

Libya's official media accused the American judiciary of racist terrorism and said the United States has no right to judge other

countries. Commenting on the violence in Los Angeles, the daily Al Fajr Al Jedid said it was "sparked by the downfall of the credibility of the American judiciary which is dominated by racism."

"The American blacks felt outraged by this racist tyrannical ruling ... hence they lost confidence in the future under laws which guarantee only the rights of whites."

In an almost identical editorial, the official Libyan news agency JANA said in a report written by its political editor Friday night: "How can a state whose justice system is unfair and the rights of people are usurped claim to carry the banner of human rights throughout the world..."

"While the American citizen rises against racist terrorism, which the American law itself hides, the American administration issues its annual list in which it includes whom it wishes of countries under the category of countries which encourage terrorism."

Reports of the Los Angeles riots were splashed across Libyan newspapers under banner headlines. It was the main item on Libyan radio and television stations.

## Palestinians win U.S. praise

(Continued from page 1)

into the nitty gritty of negotiations, beginning to have to make some tough choices," said another official. The briefing was held on condition that the officials remain anonymous.

"We think, in this respect, that this round was an encouraging step," the official said. The official also indicated that there was still no agreement on the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in five sets of talks on regional Middle East issues later this month.

The United States backs the participation of Palestinian exiles in talks in Ottawa on Middle Eastern refugees and in Brussels on economic development.

Israel this week proposed that Palestinian outsiders be allowed to take part as members of the delegations of other Arab states but not in the Palestinian delegation.

Palestinians have rejected this formula and the State Department officials said Washington does not intend to impose a solution on the parties. The way things stand now, Israel will probably boycott the Ottawa and Brussels sessions.

## Hardliners block Kabul supplies

(Continued from page 1)

have been split on whether to let him leave.

In urging unity among the guerrilla factions, Mr. Mojaddidi appealed to common Muslim identity in the multi-ethnic country.

"People must leave behind their competition for power and unite," Mr. Mojaddidi told worshippers. "The war is finished. Now is the time for peace. Our responsibility is to reconstruct our country."

But Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood, leader of the most powerful guerrilla faction, said

any resistance to the new administration in Kabul would be dealt with harshly, according to Iranian Television.

"He said any resistance to Kabul's interim government would be considered rebellion and severely punished," said an Iranian television report Friday.

Life in the capital, which has 1.5 million people, was slowly returning to normal after days of street battles. There was major fighting between Mr. Masood's forces and guerrillas loyal to Mr. Hekmatyar.

## 'No progress made in bilaterals'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Shamir in recent statements has stepped up election rhetoric that he wants peace with the Arabs but rejects territorial compromise, in a clear double-

pronged attempt to appeal to the Israeli electorate that he is the best to lead the Jewish state to peace without relinquishing occupied land.

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## Volkov falls, Agassi advances in Georgia

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — Andre Agassi took a page out of the John McEnroe handbook as he used an angry exchange with the chair umpire to propel him into the semifinals of the \$260,000 ATT Challenge Tennis Tournament.

The second-seeded Agassi rallied from a set and a break down to beat unseeded Dutchman Jacco Eltingh 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Third-seeded Russian Alexander Volkov could find no such motivation, however, and succumbed to the clay court prowess of 130th-ranked Peruvian Pablo Arraya 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 in another quarterfinal.

Agassi, who has gotten off to a rocky start this year, avenged an earlier loss in Barcelona to Eltingh to advance to his first semifinal of 1992.

The second seed, who celebrated his 22nd birthday this week, was let down by his serve in the early going. Three double faults in the eighth game gave Eltingh a break for 5-3 and the Dutchman served out the set.

An early second set break put Eltingh 3-1 up before Agassi found the range on his big forehand and broke back for 3-3 following a heated dispute over a line call with the chair umpire that really seemed to get him

going. "The controversy with the umpire helped me," Agassi said. "I started getting pumped up. I think I was tentative up to that point with my strokes but after I got angry I started to be a lot more effective with my shots which turned out to be the difference."

Agassi broke Eltingh again in the eighth game and served out the set to even the match.

Agassi's confidence was obvious in the close third set as he consistently put pressure on Eltingh's serve. The second seed picked up the break he needed in the seventh game and maintained his advantage the rest of the way. Arraya kept the crowd entertained through three sets as he countered Volkov's mechanical style with a heavy dose of showmanship.

Arraya missed his chance to end the contest in two sets when he failed to convert a match at 6-5 in the tiebreak, instead losing three successive points and the set to the Russian.

Volkov showed signs of fatigue in the final set, but he did not go down easily. Arraya did not close out the match until Volkov had fought off six match points.

"I knew exactly how to play him," Arraya said.

## Graf reaches Hamburg final

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — Germany's Steffi Graf overcame a hesitant start and an annoying drizzle to reach the final of the Hamburg Women's Clay Court Tournament with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over compatriot Anke Huber Saturday.

The German world number two looked to be in trouble when Huber led 3-1 in the first set before the fifth game was interrupted twice because of rain.

But the 22-year-old Graf showed her experience over Hu-

ber, five years her junior. She made two key breaks when the players returned and proceeded to win away with the first set 6-3 in 35 minutes.

Huber lost her nerve and patience in the second set and Graf cruised home without dropping a game to triumph in 62 minutes.

In Sunday's final Graf will meet the winner of second semifinal between Argentine second seed Gabriela Sabatini and Spanish third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

## Krabbe may still run in Stockholm Grand Prix

STOCKHOLM (R) — German world champion sprinter Katrin Krabbe could still run at the Stockholm Grand Prix athletics meeting on July 2 despite an earlier statement by organizers that she would not be welcome.

Rajne Soderberg, director of the Stockholm meetings, said Saturday Krabbe could be invited if the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) supported German Federation's decision to lift a four-year ban for allegedly rigging a dope test.

The IAAF will consider the case of Krabbe and two of her

former East German team mates at a council meeting in Toronto this month.

"As things stand today, she's not invited," Soderberg said during this weekend's annual spring meeting of European Grand Prix organizers. "But we'll wait and see what the IAAF decides. We're going to follow their decision."

Soderberg said the organizers had considered the Krabbe case and agreed to wait for the IAAF decision before deciding whether to take joint action.

## Conner eliminated from America's Cup

SAN DIEGO (R) — Dennis Conner, a vital part of the America's Cup scene since 1977, was eliminated from the competition Friday as Stars and Stripes was out-paced by oil magnate Bill Koch and his much faster Americas.

But Conner, a scrappy fighter on the water, refused to be bowed even as Americas crossed the finish well ahead appearing as a dot on the horizon from the vantage point of Stars and Stripes.

"Nice sailing guys. We'll get them in 1995," Conner said, referring to the next America's Cup.

With their victory by five mi-

nutes eight seconds, Americas took the best-of-13 series 7-4 and will defend the America's Cup against Italy's Il Moro Di Venezia in the best-of-seven competition set to begin on May 9.

The Italians wrapped up the challenger finals Thursday, beating New Zealand 5-3 in the best-of-nine series for the right to take on the U.S. defender.

When Conner finally crossed the finish Friday, his reception from the spectator boats was as great as that given to Koch. The difference was that in Koch they were cheering a victor, while they were saying goodbye to a vanquished local hero in Conner, if only temporarily.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
A TANNAN HIRSCH  
1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### RESCUE OPERATION

Both vulnerable. West deals.  
NORTH  
AKQ9742  
6  
A  
KJ93  
WEST EAST  
6 J1083  
KQJ10952 873  
J8 954  
864 A52  
SOUTH  
5  
A  
KQ108732  
Q107

The bidding:  
West North East South  
3 4 Pass 5  
Pass 6 4 Dbl 6 NT  
Pass Pass Dbl Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

There is one advantage to playing duplicate bridge. If falling by a trick is going to produce a terrible result, you might as well go to extremes to make your contract—conceding more undertricks won't do your score much harm. At rubber bridge, the difference between down one and down many can be expensive.

Despite West's preempt, North-South arrived in a reasonable slam that depended only on a 3-2 trump break. East's double announced that just the opposite could be expected and, since going down one doubled

in a slam seldom earns any match-points, South elected to try for six no trump, hoping to be able to run the diamonds.

West led the king of hearts and declarer was in a state of shock. North's bare ace of diamonds meant that declarer would need an entry to hand to run the suit, and the only entry was about to be removed while the diamonds were still blocked. It looked as if North-South were headed for a seven-trick set.

There was, however, a possibility of limiting the loss somewhat, perhaps drastically, and even have a chance to make the contract. Declarer allowed West to win the first trick!

It was difficult for West to realize that a shift was vital. It seemed natural to continue with hearts, but declarer demonstrated that it was a major misce. Dummy's blocking ace of diamonds was discarded as declarer won in hand, and when the king and queen of diamonds felled the jack, declarer ran diamonds, coming down to nothing but AKQ9 of spades in dummy and three clubs to the queen and a spade in hand. On the last diamond West was forced to discard from J1083 in spades and the ace of clubs, and whichever suit East chose to release would provide declarer with the fulfilling trick.

## JBF launches Jordan's 1st mini-basketball championship

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Another basketball competition organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) is now underway. Competing players however are playing their first league championship in the under-13 mini-basketball competition.

Over 30 promising basketball players from Al Orthodoni, Al Jazireh and Al Watani played two games each in the opening matches Friday after the fourth team Al Ahli, abruptly pulled out of the competition.

Mini-basketball's rules specify that play is limited to four 10-minute quarters in

which the clock is only stopped for time-outs and injuries.

In the first match of the competition Al Orthodoni overcame Al Watani 55-24, the first half ending 22-10. Al Orthodoni led in all quarters 14-6, 8-4, 13-6, 20-8.

In the second match Al Jazireh had a surprise in store for Al Orthodoni. Although the first quarter ended in a draw at 9-9, Al Jazireh expanded the gap to 19-9 to win the first half 21-15. Al Orthodoni won the third quarter 11-4 to get the lead at 26-25. Both teams played an exciting and competitive fourth quarter. Just as Al Orthodoni thought they had won the match, Al Jazireh caught up at 30-30 and

in the final seconds managed to score to win the match 32-30.

In the third match of the day, Al Jazireh defeated Al Watani 39-29, after they finished all quarters to their advantage 9-8, 10-7, 6-4, 14-10.

Coaches of all three participating teams said they supported the organizing of such competitions so that the young players would take the game seriously and try to improve their skills at an early age.

This of course would have an overall positive effect on Jordanian basketball in general and their respective clubs in particular.

"This competition is a good idea and will benefit the players a lot. But because there are

only three teams participating, competition will be limited," Al Orthodoni's coach Osama Shalabi told the Jordan Times.

Fadi Sabbah, Al Jazireh's coach stressed the fact that training and competition were very important from an early age. "Taking care of this age-group is of utmost importance. Besides this competition we have other activities in mind during the summer vacation so as to keep the players active and enhance their skills."

Al Watani's coach Ghaith Al Najjar said the competition was important since it gives the players the incentive to work harder to develop their game.

The competition's upcoming matches will be played next Friday at Al Orthodoni's court.

## Mansell takes pole position after rain in Spain

BARCELONA (R) — World championship leader Nigel Mansell secured pole position for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix with the minimum of fuss Saturday as heavy rain reduced final qualifying to little more than academic interest.

The Briton, driving a Williams, went out in the afternoon session to set up his car for the wet conditions but, like every other driver, was never able to contemplate improving on Friday's effort.

His time of one minute and 20.190 seconds set in first qualifying remained unchanged and he will start from the prime grid position with German Michael Schumacher, alongside him in a Benetton, on the front row for the first time in his career.

For Mansell, it will be his fourth successive pole position this season — he has won all three races to date — and the 21st

pole position of his career. This figure lifts him one clear of Alain Prost of France in the record books.

World champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil, driving a new McLaren MP4/7, will start alongside Italian Riccardo Patrese in the second Williams on the second row.

Italian Ivan Capelli, in a Ferrari, and Briton Martin Brundle, in the second new Benetton, will share the third row ahead of Austrian Gerhard Berger in the second McLaren and Frenchman Jean Alesi in the second Ferrari.

Alesi, watched in action by Ferrari President Luca De Montezemolo for the first time this season, made a huge effort to grab some respectability for the Italian team.

His efforts were marginally rewarded as he clocked the fastest time of the afternoon session in 1:45.903, ahead of Berger, Senna and Mansell.

It was the first time this year that a Williams had not been the fastest car at the end of the qualifying sessions, but it still had no effect on the grid.

Mansell, looking ahead to Sunday's 65-lap race, warned that it could become a dangerous lottery in the rain.

He said: "The weather is in the lap of the gods... The biggest trouble spot could be the first corner which is a slow one at the end of a fast straight."

"It is going to be very hard to see when everyone goes barreling into it and it could be very difficult."

Mansell said a decision would be taken Sunday on whether the Williams team would be using their traction control system, which gives superior grip.

"Whether we have the traction control system or not, the conditions are very difficult," said Mansell. "Can you remember

seeing so many cars going off and sliding into the walls?"

"If this race was going to be held in Adelaide, I am sure it would not be started. But, here, it is a different matter as it is an open circuit with sandtraps and run-offs. The show will go on."

Schumacher, who crashed heavily into a concrete wall Friday and suffered another spin and accident during Saturday's morning free practice, did not take part in the afternoon session.

Senna did and said he found the new McLaren a better car in the wet than the dry. "We are a little down on power and that matters less in the wet," he said.

Mansell said that Alesi, driving a Ferrari F92 fitted with the team's three-year-old old traction control system, had demonstrated how worthwhile it was and warned that Ferrari could be strong contenders in wet conditions.

## Last-gasp goal keeps Rennes up

PARIS (R) — A last-gasp goal by defender Serge Le Dizet saved Rennes from immediate relegation and sent Cannes and Luis Fernandez into the second division on a tense final day of the French League.

Le Dizet struck seconds from the final whistle with a lob which caught national keeper Bruno Martini off his line to give Rennes a vital 1-1 draw with Auxerre and send them into next week's promotion/relegation play-offs.

Cannes, who played Fernandez as a striker in a desperate attempt to stave off the drop, seemed to have saved themselves when Eric Guerit scored an equaliser seven minutes from time to make the score 1-1 with fellow strugglers Nancy.

But Le Dizet's goal gave Rennes their 29th point, one more than both Cannes and Nancy, who go down. Bordeaux and Valenciennes replace them.

## Big day arrives for Arazi

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Roll out the red carpet for Arazi. Here comes the most talked-about horse since that big, wooden beast rolled out of Troy with all those Mediterranean handicappers in it.

Jockey Pat Valenzuela warned all the others they would be running for second Saturday in the 118th Kentucky Derby. They didn't listen. 18 others also were entered.

Could this be the second coming of Secretariat, the 1973 Triple Crown winner trained by Lucien Laurin? Every so often, some horse comes along with those kinds of accolades.

"Look me up next year, and I'll let you know," said Laurin, who returned to the derby this year for the first time since 1973. Why? To see Arazi, of course, like everyone else.

One thing is for sure. Arazi is no Secretariat to look at. Secretariat was a big, red chestnut with a barrel chest and huge ramp. He wore a mantle of rippling muscle over his body, projecting an image of unbeatable power and

beauty. Arazi is a chestnut, too, but much lighter in colour. While heavily muscled on either end, Arazi's ribs stick out like a rack of lamb ready for the spit. He's slightly knock-kneed, stands six or eight inches shorter than his closest apparent rival, A.P. Indy.

But in a surprise move, A.P. Indy, was scratched from the field Saturday. The colt came up lame a day earlier. The injury was diagnosed as a bruised left forefoot, and trainer Neil Drysdale said, "this is a major disappointment for all of us."

That left the field at 18, with Arazi the favourite.

The horse has a face by Picasso with a crooked white blaze that ends over his right nostril. He has three white stockings that go over his knees, and a squared-off tail in the European fashion.

If he was a dog, his name would be Rover, and he's been chasing sticks in the backyard.

"He's kind of nondescript," another Hall Of Fame trainer, Ron McAnally, said. "He's not a

big horse. He's a horse sort of like Northern Dancer, but Northern Dancer was more masculine. Arazi is more feminine."

Murray Friendlander, a bloodstock agent who helped McAnally buy Dr. Devious for the derby, calls Arazi "an altogether unusual animal."

Most horsemen agree, though, if he wins the derby, you can call him a superhorse.

Last Nov. 2, the French-based Arazi won the Breeders' Cup juvenile at Churchill Downs in his only U.S. start. He had surgery on both knees shortly after that, missed two months of training, and has had only one race since then, the mile-long Prix Omium II on grass in France on April 7.

Then, he drew the No. 18 post position in a 19-horse field for this race.

That would be enough excuses for any horse. But not for Arazi. This horse has received such a buildup, no excuse is big enough. If he wins, he's great. If he doesn't, he's just another bum who didn't live up to the Secretariat legacy.

## HOROSCO

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 3, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You could have the opportunity to deal with difficult people today but nothing says that you can't avoid them with a little special effort on your part or being away for this week-end....

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Matters from a distance of very different from your views can be a source of anxiety but your judgment of a world nature is right on the beam.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You would be wise not to get involved with persons or conditions from usual obligatory sources but can gain through openmindedness to newcomers or new activities.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Use this day to consider ways by which you will be able to get a better understanding and awareness of the obligations that are naturally yours.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Rely today upon the judgment of a partner who understands public interests and don't let some duty you have to do be upsetting to your peace of mind.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Keep plugging away at whatever services you are rendering another or tasks you have allotted for yourself and keep away from companions who spend too much.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Consider the good times you

like of a conservative nature and arrange to engage in them but sidestep pending discussion or argument at home.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is an excellent day to stay at home and get conditions better organized there for the future while going out in the world can bring ups.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Think about what you can do to get your views across to neighbours, kin and close business or personal companions and steer clear of money issues.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) This is a day to be practical about what you think and do so consider the future in a mundane light and don't go after personal aims.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your judgment is better than that of any other sign today so use it to work out your own personal problems and don't fuss about what you can not help.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Hold down that gregarious instinct to see as many contacts as possible today and instead stick with our own and only who backs your loyalty.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) The world is not your oyster this day and you would be wise to steer clear of influential persons and stick to friends who really understand you.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Electric toothbrushes are a good idea. Electric toothpaste is a bad idea."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter each ways, to form four ordinary words.

COUNE

GORAC

TOPECK

MEEDER

WHAT THE CURIOUS MOUNTAIN CLIMBER WANTED TO TAKE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: COUNE

Answer: GORAC

Answer: TOPECK

Answer: MEEDER

Answer: COUNE

Answer: GORAC

Answer: TOPECK

Answer: MEEDER

Answer: COUNE

Answer: GORAC

Answer: TOPECK

Answer: MEEDER

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Answer: MEEDER

Answer: COUNE

Answer: GORAC

Answer: TOPECK

Answer: MEEDER

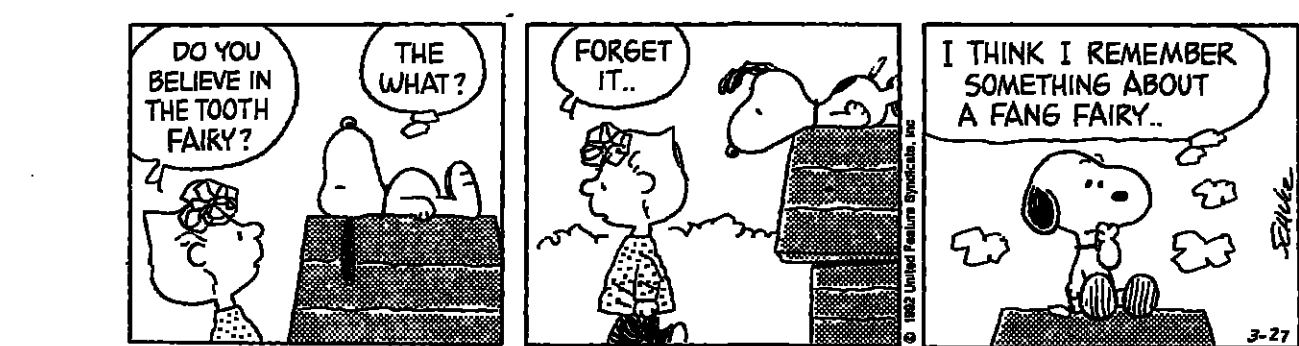
Answer: COUNE

Answer: GORAC

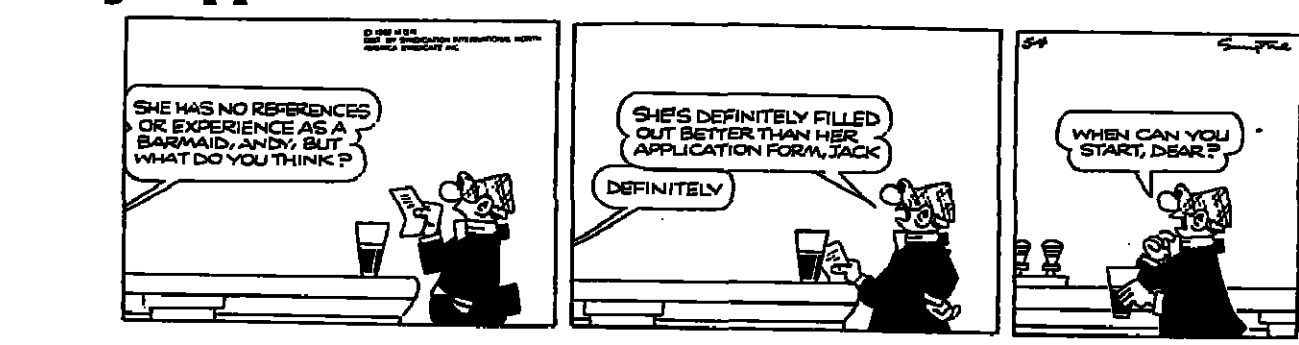
Answer: TOPECK

Answer: MEEDER

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



## China offers grand prizes for successful capitalists

BEIJING (R) — Beijing is driving another nail into the coffin of communism by promising grand prizes to workers who succeed as capitalists.

Anyone who made a new high-technology development zone in the suburbs of the capital earn \$925,000 in after-tax profit during one of its first three years would win a villa, an Audi car and a large bonus, the China Daily has said.

Anyone who created more than \$740,000 in annual profit would get a three-bedroom apartment, a Volkswagen Santana and a bonus.

The newspaper did not make clear how a worker's contribution to the changing development zone would be judged.

The cars and apartments would be provided by the county government while companies would provide the bonuses, the newspaper said.

Most Chinese live in tiny, cramped homes and almost no one has a private car.

As a further incentive, workers rated as "eminent" would be allowed to move their families to the capital, a rare privilege in a country that strictly controls population movement.

"The drive is to lure more scientific and technical talents to accelerate the economic development of the county, especially in high-tech fields," said Yu Changshui, head of Changping county.

The 40-square-kilometre Changping project is part of the Beijing high-technology develop-

ment zone.

Premier Li Peng has vowed to permit great expansion of China's growing market economy, saying the role of the state in the socialist system must be cut back.

Mr. Li, a hardliner with close ties to elderly Communist Party conservatives, told a group of visiting scholars that China must make "fundamental changes in an economic structure which has shackled the development of productive forces."

Mr. Li's pro-market statements, made at a seminar on economic reforms, are among the clearest signs to date that he is bowing to economic change as advanced by senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 67.

"The general trend in China will be for market regulation to expand greatly, while direct planning continues to diminish," the official New China News Agency quoted Mr. Li as saying.

But Mr. Li's speech offered no concrete suggestions for reform and underlined his determination to maintain the strict-jacket of "political stability" imposed on China after the crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 1989.

"Structural transformation and reform of the economic system must be implemented against a background of political stability," the official People's Daily quoted him as saying.

While Mr. Li continues to

tread a cautious path toward reform, officials in China's booming south are leaping ahead with plans to follow Mr. Deng's call for "bold change."

From the special economic zone of Shenzhen, where Mr. Deng three months ago launched his latest push for capitalist-style change, to Shanghai and south-east Fujian province, officials are mapping out specific measures to promote market growth.

"(We) should stride with bolder steps and experiment with those (new ideas) that can push forward socialist productivity," Shenzhen Mayor Zheng Liangyu was quoted as saying by the China Daily newspaper.

Shenzhen, the pioneer for reform since its establishment as a special economic zone just across the border from Hong Kong in 1979, will expand its fledgling stock market and allow more foreign banks to operate, Mr. Zheng said.

It will apply to Beijing to expand its borders to include yet another county and draw up plans to become a special tariff zone — a move that would open it even wider to the world.

Showing its confidence, Shenzhen is forecasting its gross domestic product (GDP) to grow by a whopping 23.3 per cent in 1992, contrasting sharply with the cautious six per cent national target Mr. Li set in his annual report to parliament in March.

Shanghai, too, is gearing up its reform programme — expanding decision-making autonomy to



Li Peng

more than 50 per cent of the city's large state-run enterprises and launching trial schemes to cover employment, pension and medical insurance in a market economy.

Shanghai would free government-controlled prices on industrial consumer goods this year and begin to raise the price for certain public services provided almost free under socialism, Mayor Huang Ju said.

Shanghai is forecasting its GDP will rise by seven per cent in 1992, up one percentage point over 1991, despite being a centre of China's wasteful state industrial sector.

Fujian province, drawing lessons from its special economic zone of Xiamen, is working on plans to accelerate reforms, particularly by encouraging enterprises to issue bond certificates and convertible bonds to raise money.

Governor Jia Qinglin promised to allow Fujian firms to begin issuing B-share stocks aimed at foreigners — an experiment already under way in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

## Bahrain may boost borrowing

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain may boost its domestic borrowing to cover the cost of sweeping cuts in charges for public services, officials have said.

They said government income would be down by about 10 million dinars (\$26 million) a year as a result of the cuts in charges for water, electricity and government housing loans.

Rashid Al Meer, assistant under-secretary for finance and budget planning, told reporters the government might have to increase weekly eight million dinar (\$21 million) issues of treasury bills to cover the additional burden to its treasury.

A decision would be made during the third quarter of 1992 when it was clear what impact the cuts

would have on a projected budget deficit of 125 million dinars (\$332 million).

Bahrain, the Middle East's main financial centre, is the least wealthy Gulf oil producer and like its neighbours was hard hit by a loss in business confidence following the Gulf crisis.

Diplomats said the island state could ill afford the extra subsidies needed for the service cuts, which came in response to strong public pressure after Saudi Arabia announced similar measures in March.

Bahrain depends heavily on oil for its revenues but buys most of the crude for its 250,000 barrel per day refinery from Saudi Arabia. Banking and aluminium industry are also mainstays.

Mr. Al Meer said Bahrain was "well within" a domestic borrowing ceiling of 300 million dinars (\$795 million) and would not need to seek credit from foreign banks in the near future.

He said the country's 1991 deficit shrank to 23 million dinars (\$61 million) from 39 million dinars (\$104 million) the previous year.

It was well below a projected 1992 shortfall of 118 million dinars (\$314 million) because of falls in government spending after projects were postponed during the Gulf war.

Mr. Al Meer said an annual grant of 37.5 million dinars (\$100 million) which Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — the main financiers of

the war to evict Iraq from Kuwait — used to give Bahrain to cover its deficit had been "reduced."

He gave no details.

Officials said electricity fee cuts would slash bills for most of Bahrain's half a million people by 20 to 30 per cent.

Water bills for most residents would fall by 55 to 75 per cent while the cost of housing loans for 23,000 low income families would be cut by a quarter.

Bahrain will also boost annual financial aid to its poor by 36 per cent to 3.8 million dinars (\$10 million).

This meant the number of families receiving help would rise to 10,000 by end-1992 from about 7,647 now, officials said.

## Lithuanians find road to prosperity rough

VILNIUS (R) — More than two years after declaring independence, Lithuania sees itself as a crossroads between East and West but feels trapped between a chaotic former Soviet Union and Western nations wary of investing.

With inflation at an estimated 1,000 per cent a year and soaring unemployment, the euphoria of parliament's decision to reclaim independence from the Kremlin on March 11, 1990 has worn off in the economic slump.

"Society has fallen into a lethargy," said Romualdas Ozolas, an opposition member of parliament and former deputy prime minister. "The fall of the old Soviet structures has not started yet in many areas of the economy."

"Foreign business people are coming, having a look and going home," said Algimantas Matulevicius, president of the Lithuanian Association of Industrialists. "The present situation is not favourable enough for most of them."

New firms have been slow to take over from crumbling industries geared to serving what is now the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Agriculture has been hit by uncertainty over land ownership, while vital supplies of oil and other raw materials from the CIS have shrunk.

Mr. Ozolas estimated a quarter of the workforce would be unemployed by the end of 1992 and that it would take several years before economic growth revived.

Lithuania sees itself as a cross-

roads between East and West — the most direct route from Moscow to Berlin and Paris is via Lithuania, as Napoleon found as he retreated from his ill-fated attack on Moscow in 1812.

The country, incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, also has a relatively well-educated workforce, enjoys ice-free Baltic ports and produces enough food to feed its 3.7 million population.

Diplomats say these advantages make Lithuania better placed than most former Soviet republics for an economic upturn. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia won Moscow's approval of their independence seven months ago.

The government blames the continued presence of about 43,000 CIS troops for discouraging foreign investment. Parliament is still barricaded by huge chunks of concrete put up last year against a feared Soviet attack.

Lithuania says it has friendly relations with Russia, but ties are tinged with mistrust and uncertainty over who controls the CIS troops.

"The rising risk of instability reduces investments from the West," Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius said.

"The fact that Russia doesn't have a very positive attitude to Lithuania is shown by the high customs tariffs it imposes on us," Economy Minister Albertas Simenas said in an interview.

"We import cellulose and make paper, for instance, but the price after the tariffs are added means the Russians won't buy it any longer," he said.

But Mr. Matulevicius said the Lithuanian bureaucracy was also to blame for economic problems. He called for lower domestic taxes and more liberal investment laws.

Meanwhile, Lithuania, seeking to earn hard currency and to cut its energy dependence on Russia, hopes to refine Western crude oil. Deputy Energy Minister Robertas Tamosiunas has said.

"We're planning to open a tender in few months' time," he told Reuters. "We've had talks with a lot of foreign companies, who have expressed interest and the documents are almost ready."

Under the plan, the Baltic state would build an oil import terminal at Klaipeda on the Baltic Sea and a 125 kilometre pipeline to link the terminal to Lithuania's Mazeikiai oil refinery. The refinery, Lithuania's biggest industrial complex, would also be upgraded.

The new scheme would allow Lithuania to import Western crude, refine it and reexport oil products to earn hard currency from the West.

Currently, Mazeikiai only refines oil from CIS. Products are either reexported to the CIS, used in the Baltic states or exported to the West via rail and loaded on to ships at an export terminal at Klaipeda.

Economic turmoil in the CIS has cut oil supplies to Lithuania, and Mazeikiai is now operating at about 40 per cent of full capacity, which Mr. Tamosiunas estimated at 12 to 13 million tonnes a year. "The scheme would allow us to

earn hard currency from refining," he said.

Under an agreement with Moscow reached in March, Lithuania is receiving three million tonnes of oil this year for domestic use in return for supplies of Lithuanian farm goods such as meat, dairy products and potatoes.

Mr. Tamosiunas said Lithuania's minimum annual requirement for oil was six million tonnes.

"Russia has shortages and we couldn't afford more," he said, adding Lithuania hoped to negotiate further oil supplies from the CIS.

Lithuania itself might have problems meeting its commitments for farm exports to the CIS — set at 80 per cent of last year's level — and might be forced to buy meat or other products abroad, perhaps in a barter deal.

Mr. Tamosiunas said the CIS had agreed to pay Lithuania \$9 for every tonne of oil exported through its Klaipeda terminal in 1992, which has capacity to export about 15 million tonnes a year but has no import facilities.

Moscow also owed Lithuania \$5 million from 1991 for use of the terminal, when payments were disrupted by the break-up of the Soviet Union.

While Lithuania has almost no domestic energy resources, it has a Chernobyl-style nuclear power plant and is a net exporter of electricity.

Imports of fuel to keep the Ignalina atomic plant going in 1992 were also covered by the trade deal with the CIS.

## Nigerian president urges adherence to austerity

ABUJA (R) — President Ibrahim Babangida has told Nigerians that there was no immediate relief for millions of the cash-strapped seeking an end of six years of harsh economic austerity.

"Sustaining the structural adjustment programme (SAP)... is necessary in order to get the domestic system right," General Babangida told a private conference on Nigeria's economic future in the new capital, Abuja.

A recent News Agency of Nigeria survey showed 94 per cent of Nigerians polled wanted SAP, started in 1986 to restore an oil-fuelled economy hurt by corruption, either modified or scrapped.

The programme, which bans wheat and many other imports, has seen the naira currency fall to about 18 to the dollar from near parity.

The reforms, backed by the International Monetary Fund,

have produced a dramatic fall in living standards for many of Nigeria's 88.5 million people.

General Babangida, who plans to restore civilian rule in January, called for more decentralisation of Nigeria's bureaucracy and simplified laws and procedures, to help economic reconstruction.

He also sought greater emphasis on education and training and the adoption of a more positive attitude towards work in a country where the minimum daily wage cannot buy a loaf of bread.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's military government is pressing ahead with work on one of the world's biggest aluminium smelter plants despite domestic controversy over its scale.

Finance Minister Abu Bakr Alhaji said 45 per cent of the civil works on the 2.4 billion marks (\$1.4 billion) project had been completed.

Mr. Alhaji said most of the

materials needed for the project had been procured from abroad and would soon be shipped to Nigeria.

The project, started in 1990, aims to place Nigeria among the world's major aluminium exporters by the mid 1990s.

But critics of the scheme say it is too ambitious and may end up like the vast Ajakuta steel plant in central Nigeria, still unfinished after gobbling up more than \$4 billion in construction work over more than a decade.

The aluminium smelter is due to start producing molten metal in 1993 and is projected to reach full capacity of 180,000 tonnes per year two years later.

The Nigerian government holds 70 per cent of the equity in Aluminium Smelting Company of Nigeria Ltd (ALSCON), a joint venture incorporated in 1989 to build and operate the plant.

## Iran places Airbus order

PARIS (R) — Iran Air has ordered two Airbus Industrie A300-600R airliners worth an estimated \$171 million, its first order from the four-nation European consortium since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Airbus has said.

The sale, which was approved by the United States, could clear the way for more aircraft orders by Iran, which has not bought any large Western-made commercial planes since the 1970s.

Airbus Industrie, which announced the order in a statement, gave no value for the contract but industry sources said the twin-engine aircraft have a list price of \$85.5 million each. The planes will be equipped with CF6-80C2 engines made by General Electric Co. of the United States.

An Airbus spokeswoman said the order had been approved by the United States, which last year blocked efforts by Iran to purchase four British Aerospace aircraft.

A U.S. embassy spokesman confirmed the Washington approved the Airbus sale, declining further comment.

Although chiefly fabricated and assembled in Europe, about 30 per cent of Airbus A300-600Rs, including engines, is made in the United States, triggering the requirement for U.S. consent.

"The U.S. approval could suggest a shift in Washington's attitude towards Iran, which is subject to U.S. export controls as a country designated by the U.S. government as a supporter of state terrorism."

It also suggests further orders from Iran Air, which has a largely antiquated fleet, may be waiting in the wings.

## Taiwan inward, outward investments plunge

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's overseas investment plunged 62.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year as local businessmen cut back sharply on new foreign projects, the government's investment commission has said.

Taiwanese companies poured \$281 million into the United States, South East Asia and elsewhere during the first three months, down from \$749 million

in the same period a year earlier, the commission said.

Taiwan became one of the world's top exporters of capital in the late 1980s. But economists say the investment boom is fading because of the weak global economy and rising demand for capital on the island, which is embarking on major development projects.

Growing amounts of

Taiwanese investment capital are also being diverted to China, which was not included in the commission's figures.

New investment in the United States, the main destination for Taiwanese capital, rose 11 per cent to \$58 million. But the main Asian destination, Malaysia, saw Taiwanese investment plummet 93 per cent to \$24 million.

Foreign investment in Taiwan

also plunged in the first quarter as rising land and labour costs, the rise of the Taiwan dollar and lingering political instability deterred many foreign companies.

New investment by foreigners dropped 64.5 per cent to \$214 million from \$602 million, the commission said. Japan, the biggest foreign investor on the island, saw its investment fall 32 per cent to \$112 million.

## S. Africa's ANC draws future path

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has announced guidelines for future economic policy which envisaged a dynamic private sector and measures to promote foreign investment.

It reaffirmed, however, a need for what it called systematic redistribution of income and infrastructure such as housing and education facilities in favour of the five-to-one black majority to make up for inequalities spawned by apartheid.

The ANC, which hopes to form the first black foreign government, said foreign investors would enjoy guarantees on repatriation of net profits and proceeds

from sales of local assets, as well as a consistent overall economic policy.

"In addition, foreign firms will not be nationalised without adequate and fair compensation," the document said.

Foreign investors would, however, have to comply with affirmative action policies in all areas of the economy.

Tito Mboweni, a senior ANC economic official, told a news conference the guidelines served as a discussion document for the movement ahead of a national policy conference to be held from May 28-31 and was not a final statement.

Although lacking fine detail,

the framework reflected latest economic thinking within the movement and promised a flexible approach to controversial issues such as nationalisation.

Mr. Mandela had said earlier this year that controversial issues such as nationalisation would have to be reviewed.

The policy aims to eliminate widespread poverty and inequalities in areas such as housing, health and education, while promoting high employment in an economy which currently has no formal sector jobs for 40 per cent of would-be workers.

Criticising the present concentration of power in the hands of a relatively few white-run conglomerates, it said it would investigate policies adhering to international norms in order to curb monopolies.

The ANC would be guided by what it called the balance of evidence, rather than ideology, in deciding the merits of increasing the public sector role through, for example, nationalisation, or reducing its role through privatisation.

The guidelines sought what the ANC called a constructive relationship between people, the state, private sector and the

market.

But, the document added: "Success will depend on sensible and active collaboration, in working out policies, by all those involved in the economy."

A new system governing tax, financing, mineral rights and leasing would be introduced for the mining industry, the bedrock of the economy, with public ownership and joint ventures considered where appropriate.

"The mineral wealth beneath the soil is the national heritage of all South Africans," it declared.

Industrial policies generally would be overhauled and the export of added-value goods, including beneficiated minerals, would be encouraged.

"Industrial policy will be aimed, in the first instance, at meeting the basic needs of creating jobs for the millions of our people who are unemployed and living in squalor," it said.

Affirmative action would not stop at training and career promotion for those disadvantaged by apartheid.

"Equity ownership will also have to be extended to that people from all sections of the economy and the power to influence economic decisions," it said.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading			
Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:		April 25-29	April 18-22
Daily average	JD 7,775,894	JD 4,547,482	JD 22,737,805
Total volume	JD 38,879,468	JD 22,737,805	8,613,308
Total shares	12,483,997	8,613,308	7,626
No. of contracts	18,124	7,626	
Sectoral trading:			
Industrial	JD 31,764,208 (81.7%)	JD 17,783,472 (78.2%)	
Financial	JD 4,433,208 (11.4%)	JD 2,368,468 (10.4%)	
Service	(6.5%)	(10.4%)	
Insurance	(0.4%)	(1.0%)	
Share price index	165.8	161.5	
No. of companies	71	74	
Price movement (rise)	56	38	
(Decline)	13	28	
(Stable)	2	8	

## Zaire issues new high-value banknote

KINSHASA (R) — Economically-crippled Zaire, trying to ease a desperate cash shortage, has issued a new high-denomination banknote \$1.40. The 200,000-zaire note went into circulation Monday to augment the existing highest value, 100,000 zaïres, which was introduced at the end of February. The current official exchange rate is 140,000 zaïres to the dollar. Zaire's already weak economy has slumped completely since an orgy of army-led looting last September. Four banks have halted all payments because they have no liquidity, and others have put draconian limits on withdrawals. State radio said the new banknotes were printed in the capital Kinshasa.

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## Ethiopia owes Moscow up to \$8b

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Moscow lent its ousted client government in Ethiopia \$8 billion to fight rebels who seized power last year — and now it wants the money back.

Former Soviet ambassador to Ethiopia, Lev Mironov, told a news conference the Commonwealth of Independent States wanted talks on debt repayment with the EPDRF, which toppled Marxist president Mengistu Haile Mariam last May.

But analysts said there was little chance that the new authorities would contemplate paying back money used by Mengistu to suppress their rebellion for 17 years.

The new government in Addis Ababa is dominated by people from northern Tigray province which was turned into a military and ideological front in one of Africa's longest civil wars.

"The total sum owed by Ethiopia for economic and commercial transactions is estimated at \$800 million but debt owed for

military supplies during the past regime is estimated at more than 10 times the economic debt," Mr. Mironov said.

The authorities in the former Soviet Union wanted a fresh dialogue with Addis Ababa "in the spirit of cooperation and compromise," said Mr. Mironov, who stayed on as Russian ambassador.

The former Soviet Union had backed Mengistu "for ideological reasons," which no longer exist, the ambassador said.

"We would not want to separate economic indebtedness from that of the military because some of the infrastructures built for the military have been converted to civilian use," he said.

Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world, is estimated to have a foreign debt of \$4 billion.

The ambassador was speaking in the vast former Soviet embassy where hundreds of Soviet staff worked to influence Ethiopia's development into a model Marxist state.

## THE SPANISH CULTURAL CENTRE announces

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For further information



# Bosnian forces clash with army in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — The Yugoslav army said several of its soldiers were killed or wounded in gun battles with local defence forces in the centre of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo Saturday.

An army spokesman told the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug the main army headquarters in the city and the army club were surrounded by Bosnian Territorial Defence Forces who were shooting at it.

The army commander ordered troops from barracks in the suburbs into action to relieve the buildings but encountered resistance from the defence forces, causing the casualties.

The army said one armoured vehicle in the relief column was destroyed. A witness described it as an armoured personnel carrier, standing sited off the road with a body beside it.

An army spokesman identified only as Colonel Ostapchuk said on the radio: "If they (the local defence forces) don't stop the attack, the army will bomb the city without thinking about civilian victims."

A Reuters reporter trapped in the city centre said mortar rounds, apparently fired by the army from outside the immediate area, were falling at the rate of one every 15 seconds.

A building next to the National Bank in Marshal Tito Street, the city's main thoroughfare a few metres from the army club, had been set on fire, he said.

The Bosnian side has so far said only that local defence forces surrounded the army club in the city centre and has denied that the military headquarters were also under attack.

The duty officer at the Military Press Centre reiterated that the headquarters was surrounded and under fire and that the local forces several times demanded that officers inside surrender.

A witness said the Interior

Ministry building in the city centre was hit by mortar fire. The presidential buildings also came under fire but it was not known whether it had been hit.

Local defence officials said fighting had spread to western districts of the city.

U.N. peacekeeping personnel based in Sarajevo said they had evacuated personnel of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from offices in the central battle zone.

The defence officials said army armoured personnel carriers were heading for the city centre, where streets were littered with broken glass and masonry.

Ejup Ganic, a Muslim member of the Bosnian presidency, broadcast an appeal for calm on Sarajevo Radio.

"The army command is not surrounded, it won't be surrounded, we will not attack," he said, referring to the main army headquarters in the city which are situated near the military club.

"I appeal to General Kukanjac (commander of the Yugoslav Army in Bosnia) to order a ceasefire."

But the intensity of shooting increased and police in helmets and flak jackets surrounded the club.

Some were armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers and others took up positions on surrounding roofs.

Meanwhile, EC foreign ministers met Saturday to discuss how to step up pressure on Yugoslavia to pull its troops out of Bosnia-Herzegovina after the collapse of peace talks but indicated no quick decisions were likely.

"The 'do-nothing' option seems likely to prevail," a Belgian spokesman said.

Meeting in the northern Portuguese town of Guimaraes, the ministers were briefed on the collapse of the Bosnia peace talks by the EC's special envoy to

Yugoslavia, Jose Cutileiro.

The senior Portuguese diplomat chaired five days of talks between Bosnia's warring Muslim, Serb and Croat communities, but suspended them Friday night as fighting raged on in the newly independent republic.

Mr. Cutileiro said in a statement the main reason he had adjourned the talks was Serb leaders' failure to control their forces on the ground.

"It was not possible to observe any dismantling of artillery, nor was there any lifting of blockades. Obviously these instructions are not being carried through."

EC countries accuse Serbia and the Serb-led Yugoslav Federal Army of backing Serb irregulars in Bosnia in their bid to seize large areas of territory.

Serbia and its ally Montenegro declared a new smaller Yugoslavia Monday after four of the country's six original republics broke away.

The new rump state has so far received scant international recognition and EC president Portugal has recommended leaving it in diplomatic limbo as a means of pressing for the withdrawal of the federal army from Bosnia.

If withholding recognition fails, Portugal has urged the community to consider sanctions against Belgrade, including freezing Yugoslav assets abroad and expelling Yugoslavia from international organisations.

The European Community yielded to Greek pressure and agreed Saturday to recognise the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia only if it changed its name.

"The (EC states) are willing to recognise that state as a sovereign and independent state, within its existing borders, and under a name that can be accepted by all parties concerned," EC ministers said in a statement.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sierra Leone coup leaders name council

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Coup leaders in Sierra Leone have named a military council to replace ousted President Joseph Momoh and promised to halt the war that brought down his government. The leader of the council established Friday, Lt. Col. Yahya Kanneh, was the most effective field commander in battling last year's invasion of Sierra Leone by Liberian and Sierra Leonean rebels. A report this week by Amnesty International said Col. Kanneh's units in Kenema, southeast Sierra Leone, were guilty of many atrocities. Col. Kanneh, trained at Britain's prestigious Sandhurst Military Academy, promised Thursday the new government was "absolutely in favour of a return to multiparty rule." In London, the secretary general of the Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies, Nigerian chief Emeka Anyaoku, urged the new rulers to make that a top priority.

### Delhi blast toll reaches 43

NEW DELHI (R) — Rescue workers Saturday cleared wrecked buildings from Delhi's crowded old quarter, devastated by a series of explosions and fire which killed 43 people. At least 40 bodies were found in the rubble in the Naya Bazaar or new market district of the walled city quarter, said officials at the Delhi Police Headquarters. The last two were removed Friday night. Three people died in hospital of injuries sustained in the fire, and about 20 others are still being treated. Investigators were focusing on volatile chemicals stored in the neighbourhood. Naya Bazaar is adjacent to the capital's largest market for acid and chemicals.

### Ramos supporters barge into congress

MANILA (AP) — Supporters of presidential candidate Fidel Ramos broke into the House of Representatives Saturday and claimed the speaker was using the chamber's printing press to produce material for his presidential campaign. Marine guards locked the intruders inside the building and called the police. But when police discovered that the intruders included congressmen, they allowed them to leave without arrest. The group then milled around the building, complaining to reporters about an alleged violation of campaign regulations. A representative of the Commission on Elections was sent to the building to investigate the complaint. Rep. Edemiro Amante, president of Gen. Ramos' People Power Party, said the group found campaign materials promoting speaker Ramon Mitra, standard-bearer of the struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party, in the May 11 election.

### 8 killed in S. African township wars

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least eight blacks, including two thugs from trains, were killed in South African township violence during the night, police said Saturday. A daily police bulletin on township fighting listed 18 incidents in which the eight were killed and 30 others wounded. Some of the clashes were linked to May Day rallies held by rival unions and political groups. Fifty-four people have been killed in the past six days. Police said the two thrown from a train near Germiston, southeast of Johannesburg, had been stabbed. Another man was found shot at the wheel of his minibus in Imbali, near Pietermaritzburg. The remaining five were killed in Alexandra, Katlehong, Tokoza Dube (Soweto), and Secunda. Police were on alert in potential flashpoints in townships to keep the peace between rival groups staging May Day rallies.

### Governor steps down after Mexico blasts

GUADALAJARA (R) — The governor of Jalisco state stepped down after he was severely criticised over last week's sewer explosions which killed nearly 200 people and flattened much of central Guadalajara. Governor Guillermo Cosío Vidaurri, a member of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, said in a letter to the western state's congress that he was requesting a year's leave of absence, the government news agency Notimex said. "Not wishing by my remaining to give any margin to the shattering of unity and harmony... I request leave to step down for a year from the honourable position entrusted to me," he wrote. Mr. Cosío had been accused of ignoring warnings of imminent disaster before a chain of explosions ripped through the sewer system of Mexico's second-biggest city on April 22.

### Chinese headline leader backs reform

PEKING (R) — Ageing leader Chen Yun, a veteran hardliner whose power challenges that of Deng Xiaoping, has broken a long silence to support faster economic reform, an official report said Friday. Mr. Chen, 87, told leaders in Shanghai, China's largest city, "to accelerate the pace of reform and opening to the outside world and concentrate on developing the economy," the New China News Agency said. Mr. Chen, rarely seen in public, seemed to restate his remarks to Shanghai, which did not mention developing in China as a whole or in the booming south where Mr. Deng, also 87, has made a push for reform, the agency said. "Shanghai holds out great hopes," Mr. Chen said in his first quoted speech in more than a year.

## Riots give Democrats ammunition against Bush

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Race riots in Los Angeles have given U.S. Democrats a major new political issue on which to attack George Bush in the presidential election campaign.

Democrats say Mr. Bush must share some of the responsibility for the violence.

House of Representatives Democratic leader Dick Gephardt and other party leaders attending a two-day Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) meeting Friday said Mr. Bush's lack of leadership was partly to blame for the riots.

The violence erupted after four white policemen were acquitted of charges in the videotaped beating a black motorist Rodney King.

"I don't come today to blame this all on George Bush," said Mr. Gephardt. "It is not all his fault. But his lack of leadership has created an environment in this country where the Rodney King incident is the spark that lights the gasoline."

He said Mr. Bush had not mentioned help for ailing cities. "There has not been a word on urban policy," Mr. Gephardt said.

Other leaders at the meeting of party moderates and their business supporters advanced similar arguments as they tried to pin some of the blame on the Republican administration.

DLC Chairman Senator John Breaux of Louisiana said Democrats could win politically in the aftermath of the racial turmoil only if they found new solutions to the underlying economic and social problems that led to the violence.

He and other leaders called for new programmes such as educa-

tion and welfare reform advocated by Bill Clinton, front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mr. Clinton, who was chairman of the DLC until he announced his presidential candidacy last year, was scheduled to be the key speaker Saturday.

On Friday, Democratic Party National Chairman Ron Brown gave a ringing endorsement to Mr. Clinton whom he called "a commonsense candidate" and a formidable challenger against Mr. Bush in the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Mr. Brown also said Mr. Bush "has abandoned the cause of civil rights... creating a climate of fear and distrust to disguise his own administration's failings, and further his own ambitions."

"We saw the results of 12 years of wedge politics on television the last two nights," Mr. Brown, the first black ever to be chairman of a national major party, said of the riots.

Mr. Brown abandoned his previously self-declared neutrality in the Democratic presidential race by strongly backing Mr. Clinton, even though the Arkansas governor has not yet amassed enough delegate votes to ensure his nomination at the party convention in July and still has an active challenger in Jerry Brown.

"Bill Clinton is proving that a commonsense message can communicate Democratic ideals and values that a commonsense candidate can embrace the diversity of our party," Mr. Brown told the meeting of about 1,000 party moderates and conservatives.

Mr. Brown told reporters that Mr. Clinton was not beholden to anyone — even though he was one of the founders of the DLC, set up in 1985 to steer the party

## Opposition leader's husband in Burma for reunion

BANGKOK (R) — The British husband of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San San Kyi arrived in Rangoon Saturday for his first meeting with the detained opposition leader in nearly two-and-a-half years.

Michael Aris, a visiting professor at Harvard University in the United States, arrived in the Burmese capital on a scheduled flight from Bangkok, airline officials said.

Western reporters have not been allowed visas to cover his visit and he avoided reporters waiting to talk to him at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport.

Burma's ruling military junta has kept Aung San San Kyi, 46, leader of the main opposition party the National League for Democracy (NLD), under arrest in her home beside Rangoon's Inye Lake since July, 1989.

The junta has said in the past it would release her only if she agrees to renounce politics and leave Burma.

Some diplomats believe the junta hopes Prof. Aris will persuade her to leave, but they doubted she would agree to do so.

Mrs. Aung San San Kyi, the Oxford-educated daughter of Burma's independence hero, was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for standing up to what the committee called "a regime characterised by brutality."

She was detained on subversion charges when she galvanised the opposition after the military suppressed a nationwide pro-democracy uprising in 1988.

Prof. Aris was last allowed to see her in December, 1989. The family has had no contact with



Aung San San Kyi

her since mid-1990 and rumours that she is in poor health have circulated frequently.

The junta has made several conciliatory gestures since General Than Shwe took over its leadership from ailing hardliner General Saw Maung on April 23. It said it would allow Prof. Aris and the couple's two sons into Burma for a "family reunion."

The boys were not checked onto Saturday's flight, airline officials said.

The scene outside her house was normal Friday, said Rangoon residents contacted by telephone from Bangkok.

The compound is surrounded by barbed wire fences, with three sentry boxes each manned by two armed soldiers. Soldiers are also reported to be inside the compound. University Avenue, on which the compound lies, is sealed off every night.

The NLD won a May, 1990 general election by a landslide despite Mrs. Aung San San Kyi's detention, but the junta refused to hand over power and arrested most of its leaders.

Last week, the junta said it would release all political prisoners, except those considered a threat to national security. It has since freed 48 dissidents including many NLD officials, Mrs. Aung San San Kyi's personal assistant and others in her entourage.

## U.N. climate treaty draft dismisses environmentalists

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A draft U.N. treaty on global warming, moulded to Washington's views has dismayed environmentalists by abandoning targets for curbing climate-warming gas emissions in the next century.

Jean Ripert of France, chairman of the U.N. Committee Organising the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro next month, produced a draft Friday calling on rich countries to honour "guidelines" for capping emissions at 1990 levels.

European Community (EC) proposals would have made 1990 levels of carbon dioxide compulsory by the year 2000 with a view towards reducing them before that date.

"This is (U.S. President) George Bush's global warming treaty and it is loophole-ridden gobbledegook," said Dan Becker of the U.S.-based Sierra Club.

Democratic Senator Al Gore of Tennessee, an advocate of tough environmental standards,

said: "The negotiations have been stopped far short of the mark by U.S. intransigence. President George Bush has used his influence and authority to undermine a historic opportunity."

Negotiators for the United States and other Western countries would not comment but a U.S. delegation spokesman said Washington was "studying the revised text to see if it might be the basis for a compromise."

Another week of talks is scheduled to finalise the draft but the new proposals were regarded as a turning point in the debate pitting Washington against the rest of the industrial world.

Carbon dioxide, produced by cars, power stations and factory chimneys, is blamed for trapping the Earth's heat and raising its temperature in a process known as the greenhouse effect.

That threatens changes in the world's climate, causing floods in some areas and drought in others.

## Gunman kills 4 in raid on U.S. school

OLIVEHURST, California (AP) — An ex-student clad in camouflage and draped with ammunition took hostages at his old high school in a bloody 8½-hour siege. Three students and a teacher were found dead after he surrendered, police said.

At least 10 others were wounded, one critically, officials said. Yuba County Sheriff Gary Tindel said the bodies were found after Eric Houston released the final 20 hostages unharmed after a standoff of nearly nine hours.

The names of the victims — a male teacher, two male students and a female student — were not immediately released.

Sheriff Tindel said Houston,

who attended Lindhurst High School in 1988 and 1989, apparently was angry that he failed a class.

"He came back today to vent his frustration and retaliate and shoot people," the sheriff said.

Police said Houston surrendered at 10:29 GMT (0529 GMT Saturday).

"He's gave up. He said nothing when he came downstairs," said Capt. Dennis Moore of the Yuba County Sheriff's Department.

The siege started about 2 p.m. (1800 GMT Friday), when witnesses said Houston entered the school and started firing. Yuba County Sheriff's deputies sur-

rounded the high school campus. Anxious parents had awaited word at a nearby middle school.

During the siege, authorities spoke by telephone to Houston, who attended the high school, but did not graduate.

Student Robert Barbour, a senior, said he saw the gunman shoot a student, then fire into a classroom.

"He just walked in, cocked it, then fired. That was it," Barbour said, adding that he escaped after hiding in a room behind the auditorium stage.

"It was hell, that's all I can say," the 19-year-old student said. "I've been shaking all afternoon."

## Russia celebrates 'spring and labour'; groups protest against reforms

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Workers were in no mood to celebrate the first May Day in post-Communist Russia, as protesters registered their frustration with President Boris Yeltsin's reforms. In Cuba, marchers directed their anger at the United States.

Elsewhere, China observed the international labour holiday with little public display. Clashes followed May Day rallies in Germany, where some marchers carried banners sympathising with victims of racial violence in the United States. In Paris, thousands of extreme rightists marched in a show of strength on a holiday traditionally associated with leftists.

Breaking with decades of tradition, the Moscow government did not sponsor a parade of workers across Red Square. Instead, Russia's legislature declared Friday a non-ideological celebration of "spring and labour."

But the event was sparsely attended. A steady stream of Muscovites, luggage piled atop their cars, headed out of the city for the four-day holiday weekend.

Diehard Communists, Russian nationalists and others soured by Mr. Yeltsin's reforms vented their anger in cities from Moscow to Siberia.

In Khabarovsk, east of Moscow, a few hundred protesters rallied around a Lenin statue as speakers demanded Mr. Yeltsin's resignation, the ITAR-TASS News Agency said. In the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, 700 mostly elderly Communists marched under red banners, while groups of Ukrainian nationalists chanted "fascists" there was a small scuffle but no injuries were reported.

"I don't even have enough money to get buried," complained Yelena Kuznetsova, 74, a retired metallurgist. She was among about 20,000 protesters who crowded Red Square for a rally of the Working Russia Movement, a neo-Communist organisation. Hundreds of police kept order.

Many demonstrators called for

Mr. Yeltsin's resignation, the restoration of the Soviet Union, and freedom for the jailed August coup plotters.

"I was born with this holiday and want to return to the past," said Anatoly Krutov, a labourer. "We have nothing to eat and no money to buy anything."

Friday's official Red Square events marked a dramatic change in May Day, once a major political holiday.

Giant advertisement billboards replaced the huge portraits of Lenin, Marx and Engels that were a feature of past May Day festivities on Red Square. The cash-starved Russian government had tried to sell advertising space to foreign companies, but only two advertisements adorned Red Square.

May Day looked more familiar in Cuba, which has resisted the reforms that swept other Communist states. Pedro Ross Leal, president of the Cuban Workers Federation, stood next to President Fidel Castro on Revolution Plaza to deliver a vigorous defence of Cuba's system and deplored the trend towards "savage capitalism" in the developing world.

In other countries:

Police in Berlin fought stone-throwing rioters after a May Day march by leftists. Police said 72 people were arrested by nightfall.

Berlin leftists carried a huge banner saying "greetings to Los Angeles," a reference to the violence that erupted in the United States after four white policemen were acquitted in the beating of a black motorist. A major theme of the protests was a call for an end to violent attacks on foreigners in Germany.

China marked the day with calls for support for the nation's new reform drive, but for most Chinese it was just a day off. There were no grand May Day festivities in Peking, capital of the world's last major Communist power.

In Paris, thousands of supporters of the conservative

National Front Party marched in the rain behind party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen chanting slogans against Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's government.

Nearly four million workers attended May Day rallies across Japan Friday demanding shorter working hours in the country which coined a special word, "karoshi," for death from overwork.

In Tokyo, about 200,000 people turned up for a rally to support Japan's largest labour union Rengo in campaign for shorter working hours.

"The origin of May Day was to form a global movement to demand an eight-hour work day," Rengo head Akira Yamagishi told the rally. "Let's create a society with only 1,800 working hours a year."

The average Japanese worked 2,016 hours last year while his German counterpart put in about 1,499 hours.

South Korean protesters hurled petrol bombs and riot police retaliated with tear gas during angry demonstrations against a government plan to curb wage increases.

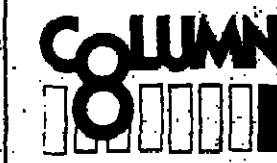
Thousands of workers in Bangladesh demonstrated against unemployment and plans to slash the government's workforce.

Thousands of workers in buses and lorries drove through the capital, Dhaka, chanting: "We need the jobs for a living. Don't throw us out."

Last month the government sacked more than 5,000 employees of state-owned jute mills as part of what it said was a "plan to squeeze unproductive expenditures."

In Manila, at least 10,000 left-wing demonstrators belonging to the May One Movement marched to denounce the presidential candidates standing in Philippine elections on May 11.

"Not one of them passes our standards in protecting worker rights," one speaker declared. Seven candidates are running, including former first lady Imelda Marcos.



## Taiwan claims world record for toppling dominoes

TAIPEI (R) — University students in Taiwan have set a world record for toppling a chain of dominoes, causing 1,640,810 to fall in sequence with one push, the semi-official Central News Agency said. The chain, which took 46 minutes to collapse, broke the previous world record of 1,467,125 set in Tokyo in March last year, the agency said. Forty-five students from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Thailand set up the domino chain in a gymnasium in the northern county of Ilan. The event was sponsored by Taiwanese and Japanese television stations. Highlights included a fireworks display set off by the falling dominoes as the old record was broken, and a domino that triggered a telecommunications signal causing a smaller chain to collapse at a Taipei hotel 50 kilometres away. It was not clear whether the record would be recognised by the Guinness Book of Records, the world's main register for such achievements.

## Nuclear protester attacks Princess Diana's car

BARROW-IN-FURNESS, England (R) — A nuclear arms protester charged a car carrying Britain's Princess Diana, hammering his fists on the window and screaming "murderers," police said. The young man broke through a police cordon as the princess, wife of her late husband Prince Charles, arrived in this northwest port to launch Britain's first Trident nuclear submarine. Police and bodyguards seized the man before he reached the princess. "At no time was the princess in danger," a police spokesman said. But the Daily Mirror said the princess had been back in fear inside the car and quoted an eyewitness as saying: "If he had been carrying a gun, he could have killed her."

Anti-nuclear protesters had urged Princess Diana to stay away from the ceremony. They said the new submarine was unnecessary because of the end of the cold war. But the launch went as planned with the princess naming the submarine HMS Vanguard.

## Australian scientists develop 'super eggs'

SYDNEY (R) — A "super egg" that may reduce the risk of heart disease could be on sale within a year, Australian scientists said. The egg, developed over the last two years at Australia's New England University, contains fatty acids that scientists believe cut the risk of coronary disease and enhance brain development in babies. "We feel our egg has the right balance of fats that can help combat heart disease, which normal eggs just don't have," said David Farrell, the university's professor of nutrition and the project leader. The super eggs could be ready for sale within a year once testing has been completed, he said. To produce the eggs, a mixture of fish, cod liver and canola oil is added to the grain, bone, meat off-cuts, vitamins and minerals that make up chicken feed. Health experts advocate increased consumption of fish because it contains the Omega-3 chain of unsaturated fatty acids that reduce the risk of coronary disease, Prof. Farrell said. The acids neutralise build-up of scar tissue in the arteries. Canola oil, derived from rape seed, also contains these acids. The super eggs, larger than normal eggs, were tested on 45 volunteers who ate who ate two per day for seven weeks, Prof. Farrell said. No results were yet available.

## Top Phnom Penh restaurant closes

PHNOM PENH (R) — The International Cafe, Phnom Penh's legendary meeting spot for foreign aid workers, journalists, diplomats and travellers, closed Friday. Renowned for its dirty appearance, incompetent service and Cambodia's most persistent postcard salesmen, the restaurant is to get a facelift and new management. In the days when a Western embargo kept the country in a state of isolation, the cafe at the capital's main intersection was a social centre where foreigners swapped yarns and gossip. Veteran U.S. photographer Al Rockoff recalled how the cafe had survived the 1970-75 war, the Khmer Rouge's revolutionary rule, Vietnamese occupation and continued civil war with its unique ambience almost unchanged. Dining at the International was fraught with surprises.